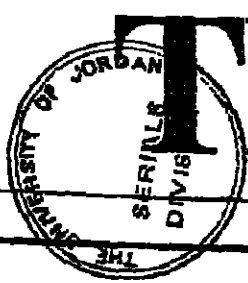


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THE



TIMES

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No 63,880

TUESDAY DECEMBER 4 1990

Overseas Edition

35p

Europe refuses to budge on subsidies

Gatt talks head for disaster amid farm riots

From Peter Guilford and Michael Binyon in Brussels

ATTEMPTS to create a global free trade regime were heading for disaster last night as Europe clashed with the rest of the world over its refusal to make deeper cuts in farm subsidies.

The conflict split on to the streets of Brussels yesterday when more than 30,000 farmers demanded that their subsidies be protected. Paramilitary police fired tear gas and water cannon to control the demonstrators after they tore out trees and traffic signs, and burned tyres.

More than a hundred countries are aiming to adopt a strategy to free commerce for the next century within five days, after four years of negotiations. But the process is stumbling over demands by America and other nations that European farm subsidies be cut by between 75 and 90 per cent. The community is offering only a fraction of those cuts. The 14-nation Cairns group, led by Australia, threatened to leave the talks today if the community did not shift its stance.

Peter Lilley, the trade and industry secretary, said that "a



Carla Hills: "Time for rhetoric has passed"

crisis was brewing" at the talks. Britain's dependence on trade put it among those nations most perilously exposed to global recession if the talks broke down. Failure would throw the world back into protectionism and "beggar-my-neighbour" policies. Arthur Dunkel, director-general of Gatt (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) said the so-called Uruguay round of talks had only one week to achieve results. "This leaves us with no option but to negotiate, negotiate and negotiate and waste no time in political shadow boxing or mutual recrimination."

Carla Hills, the American trade representative, said there was a danger of a slide towards protectionism and political instability if the talks failed. "The fate of the round hangs in the balance. This is the final, I repeat the final, week of the Uruguay round. There will be no extension. The time for rhetoric has passed. Now is the time for straight talk and bottom lines." Her remarks destroyed any hopes that the Gatt talks could be delayed until February, giving America just enough time to push the results through Congress on the "fast track" by March 1.

Mrs Hills systematically dismissed crucial elements of the EC's complex reform package, describing the agriculture deadlock as the only obstacle to a worldwide economic renaissance. She put the prize for success at more than \$4,000 billion in the 1990s. If successful, the agreement would bring textiles, farming, copyright and investment rules under the control of a single free trade regime. Most delegates want one global package or nothing, so the farm dispute could scupper the entire deal. The bitterness is focused on

the community's refusal to make specific cuts to its export subsidies. The Americans want them cut by 90 per cent, and all other support reduced by three-quarters. Brussels has offered to cut internal support by 30 per cent from 1986 levels, but refuses to commit itself to explicit cuts in export subsidies or to better access to its market, saying these would flow from its offer.

The European agriculture commissioner Ray MacSharry did not appear to have any room to negotiate. He said yesterday: "The only flexibility I have is to explain in detail the impact which reductions in internal support will have on export subsidies and market access." Washington dismissed that as posturing, while Australia accused Mr MacSharry of poor arithmetic. Richard Crowder, the American under-secretary for agriculture, added: "We don't need more explanations. We understand the policies. We need real movement."

Outside the European Commission building, Brussels was under siege yesterday. Traffic was at a standstill. Metro stations were sealed and armoured troop carriers and police buses dominated the streets in an attempt to keep the demonstrating farmers away from the delegates.

Brandishing pitchforks and blowing whistles, the farmers surged down streets only to be halted outside the deserted European Parliament. The crowd, some dressed in national dress, others in animal masks, then moved to a park near by for a rally denouncing the Gatt talks. Chris French of Britain said: "It's an expression of farmers' concern that we will not be sold down the river."

Facing disaster, page 5
Leading article, page 17



Face of rebellion: a rebel soldier yesterday guarding the entrance to the armed forces headquarters in Buenos Aires after a dawn mutiny

Kinnock fights for political initiative

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

NEIL Kinnock yesterday began a concerted campaign to regain the political initiative after the election of John Major and declared that he would lead Labour into government.

The Labour leader dismissed speculation over his own position, as absurd as he launched his party's plans for improving school standards, and Roy Hattersley outlined its new policy on Europe, referring to the "substantial advantages" of entry into monetary union.

Labour's attempt to move on to the offensive with detailed expositions of its own approach and claims that Mr Major is maintaining Thatcherite policies has been hindered by questions over Mr Kinnock's leadership, intensified by a weekend poll suggesting that the party might do better if he stepped down. In his first remarks about the speculation, Mr Kinnock said that the only valid opinions were those of his colleagues. "With one voice, they have shown that the whole thesis put forward is absurd. That is certainly my view."

"The only joy I take from all this is the fact that, with such a spread of confidence among my colleagues, it removes any worry I might have had about what might be called the 'number 11 bus problem'. Consequently, not only will Labour be well led to victory and into government by me but, for decades after that, there are clearly large supplies of people of high quality who can succeed me when eventually I decide to depart the position."

At the education launch, John Cunningham, Labour's campaign co-ordinator, said talk of Mr Kinnock standing down was "absolute arrant nonsense". Sitting next to Mr Kinnock, he said: "Where does all this nonsense come from? Labour has had an outstanding period of regeneration and recovery under the leadership of Neil Kinnock which culminated in

Continued on page 24, col 6

BA plans joint airline with base in Berlin

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

BRITISH Airways is recruiting pilots from throughout Europe to form crews for a new airline based in Berlin.

The airline, in which BA will have a 49 per cent stake, could become one of the biggest and most powerful in the world, providing a network of services linking cities in East and West Europe with other continents.

It is hoped that the airline — for which no name has yet been chosen — will be operational by the spring and provide direct competition with Lufthansa, while turning Berlin into a formidable "hub" airport. An advertisement for crew is to appear in tomorrow's edition of *Flight International* and calls for both pilots and co-pilots with licences which are "acceptable to the German authorities" to write to a box number. No mention is made of BA in the advertisement but an airline spokesman last night confirmed that it had placed the advertisement.

The airline has been working on ways of maintaining a base in Berlin since unification led to foreign carriers effectively being ordered out by 1993. At present BA has a fleet of nine Boeing 737s and

British Aerospace ATPs based permanently in Berlin, providing 86 daily flights to nine German cities.

Under the new rules BA would have to reduce the number of seats it provides by 20 per cent in April and then make cuts of 10 per cent every six months beyond that. In talks with German investors, however, BA has received enthusiastic backing for a new airline which would be 51 per cent owned by Germans but operated by BA.

British Airways involvement in Berlin began during the airlift when the allied powers were asked to keep the city supplied in the face of East German and Soviet land blockades. When the Berlin wall collapsed Pan Am, which had provided the bulk of services to Berlin, sold out its interest to Lufthansa which is back at Tegel airport for the first time since the second world war.

Economists and aviation experts now predict a boom in air links within the new Germany and to cities in the Eastern block as well as an increased demand for long-haul services to both America and the Far East, and BA was determined to build on its

long experience. The aircraft in its fleet will be registered in Germany and licences will be granted by the German authorities before the planned liberalisation of all European air services in 1993. From then on, under existing proposals, any airline will be free to fly where it likes within the Community.

The new airline is part of BA's strategy of developing hubs in central Europe. One such proposal — to take a stake in Sabena World Airways alongside KLM and Sabena — is now being held up in Brussels because of objections to the creation of a near monopoly at Brussels and the nearness of other key international airports.

British Airways is finalising plans for a new airline operating from Moscow to be called Air Russia which it hopes to form jointly with Aeroflot. The Berlin-based airline would be even bigger, however, and could be ready within months. Some believe it could grow rapidly to become almost as big and powerful as BA is today within the next 15 years, leading to a significant increase on the 1,000 staff employed by BA in Berlin.

Artillery attack on Argentine rebels

From Michael Soltyz
in Buenos Aires

PRESIDENT Menem of Argentina ordered an artillery barrage yesterday on rebel troops who seized a suburban Buenos Aires infantry garrison in a dawn mutiny in which three soldiers died. Field guns opened fire at the Patricios garrison two miles from the city centre. The rebels fired back with mortars.

Army headquarters in the centre of Buenos Aires, the nearby coastguard headquarters and a tank factory were also in rebel hands. The rebels said they recognised President Menem as commander-in-chief but demanded the appointment as army chief of a retired colonel, Mohamed Ali Seineldin, a commando officer and self-styled Falklands war hero, who led a rebellion against President Alfonsín's government in December 1988.

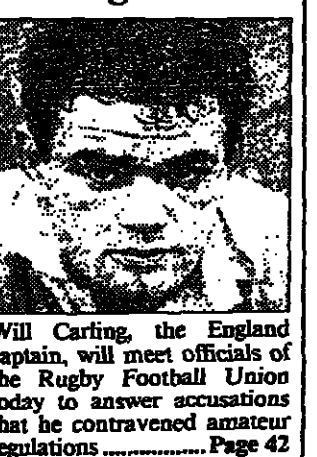
The rebels struck two days before President Bush's visit to Buenos Aires, seriously embarrassing President Menem, who declared a state of siege in the capital.

Bush visit, page 15

Police blamed for shooting

A judge yesterday called for an enquiry into the deliberate suppression by West Midlands police of a highly critical report on the shooting by police ten years ago of Gail Kinchin, a pregnant 16-year-old girl, who was being used as a shield by her boyfriend. He awarded her mother £8,155 damages. Page 3

Carling's date



Will Carling, the England captain, will meet officials of the Rugby Football Union today to answer accusations that he contravened amateur regulations. Page 42

Estate misery

Large post-war council housing estates have become centres of deprivation where the poorest 20 per cent live in worse conditions than those in the inner cities. Page 2

City ambition

Hull, Britain's only city which runs its own telephone service, is anxious to take charge of all services now controlled by Humberstide. Page 5

Russia for sale

The Russian Federation parliament overcame bitter opposition to vote for the principle of private ownership of land. Page 14

Curfew imposed

A curfew was imposed on several Transvaal townships yesterday after battles between rival factions killed at least 64 people. Page 15

Credit record

Consumers borrowed a record £423 billion on credit in October, casting doubt on evidence that the government's counter-inflationary squeeze has reined back spending. Page 25

French minister gives hint of visit to Iraq

By Michael Knipe and Susan Ellicott

ROLAND Dumas, the French foreign minister, said yesterday that he did not rule out a visit to Iraq in the wake of the planned visit by James Baker, American secretary of state, later this month.

His words raised speculation that other western ministers might follow in Mr Baker's footsteps, if only to reinforce the international community's determination to force President Saddam Hussein to withdraw his forces from Kuwait.

An additional benefit would be to placate their own anti-war factions at home. In the

House of Commons, however, Douglas Hogg, minister of state at the Foreign Office, said there were no plans for Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, to go to Iraq.

Richard Cheney, the American defence secretary, said in Washington that the administration was prepared to appeal to its anti-Iraq allies to increase contributions towards the costs of the Gulf operation and helping countries hit hard by higher oil prices and sanctions.

Clark's denial, page 2
Hawks' fears, page 12

Tory storm over racist attack

By Peter Victor

A POLITICAL storm blew up last night after John Taylor, the barrister widely tipped to become the first black Conservative MP, was described by a fellow party member as a "bloody nigger". The statement drew condemnation from Conservative MPs.

The row began yesterday following Mr Taylor's selection as prospective parliamentary candidate for Cheltenham on Saturday. William Galbraith, aged 54, who on Saturday seconded a motion calling for Mr Taylor's adoption to be delayed, said yesterday: "I don't really think we should give in to a bloody nigger even though Central Office have foisted him upon us. We are here to repel the invader."

Norman Tebbit angrily con-

demned Mr Galbraith's attack on Mr Taylor and described it as "ignominious". He dismissed the outburst as the rantings of a man "who holds no position or power" within the party and has written to Mr Taylor offering his support.

Mr Taylor said he would not be taking any action over Mr Galbraith's remarks. "I just feel very sorry for this man," he said. "It is not worth taking any action over his comments. I have got a job of work to do in Cheltenham and I want to get on with it."

The prime minister yesterday gave his full backing to Mr Taylor (Nicholas Wood writes). Government sources said that John Major welcomed Mr Taylor's candidacy.

Parliament, politics, page 6

Earthquake fever hits seven on Richter scale

From Charles Bremner
in New York

THOUSANDS of people across America's Midwest have braved freezing weather to stay outside in case the ground opens beneath them, the mighty Mississippi reverses its flow and Elvis is rocked in his grave.

The source of the biggest panic in memory to strike the normally sober heartland of America is a prediction by then Browning, a self-taught climatologist and business consultant, that the region would witness a cataclysmic earthquake either yesterday or today.

The scorn of geologists and the mockery of the rest of the country has not been enough to deter residents, from Little Rock, Arkansas, to Chicago, Illinois, from taking precautions. Schools and offices across

Missouri and Kentucky have closed. In Memphis, Tennessee, corporations have told employees to stay home. Women and children have been sent away and some have set up tents in cotton fields. Even in Chicago, schools have been advising children how to shelter under desks.

The epicentre of the quake fever is the small Missouri town of New Madrid, which lies on a fault line that produced the most powerful earthquake in American history in 1811. According to legend that tremor, estimated at eight on the Richter scale, reversed the Missouri and Mississippi rivers.

The authorities have been deluged with calls from fearful citizens reporting mysterious bubbling along the rivers, but they insist the waterways are doing nothing strange. Emergency equipment has been shipped in to

hospitals, the Civil Defence has set up a control centre and the National Guard is on the alert.

Geologists have long predicted tremors along the 120-mile New Madrid fault, but all scoffed at Mr Browning's forecast. However, Mr Browning, who claims to have predicted last year's San Francisco earthquake and the 1980 eruption of Mount St Helens volcano in Washington state, insisted that New Madrid was in for an earthquake measuring at least seven on the Richter scale. He has based his prediction in part on unusually strong tidal forces, which reached a 60-year peak early yesterday morning.

The town of 3,000 people, in the heart of the cotton-picking district, adopted something of a carnival atmosphere as reporters, preachers, tourists and rock bands flooded its

streets waiting for the cataclysm. But the moment of greatest tidal forces passed without a tremor. Mr Browning reminded sceptics that today was also a high risk day.

The earthquake madness has also furnished fuel for the millennium-waiters. End-of-the-world predictions, plentiful in the 1790s and 1890s, are expected to multiply as the third millennium approaches.

In nearby Memphis Elvis Presley fans are standing guard to help preserve the late singer's home and burial site. "If the earth opens up I can't wait to see if Elvis is really in that grave," said one nightclub owner.

Blasha Streicher, a preacher from Cincinnati, noted that he appeared to arrive just in time to save the town's soul. "The entire town needed to repent its sins, and fast" or God would destroy the city in 40 days.

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Poorest left behind in worst council housing, study says

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

LARGE post-war council housing estates have become centres of deprivation where the poorest 20 per cent of the population live in conditions that are worse than the inner cities, according to a report published yesterday.

A Glasgow university team, led by Professor Duncan McEneaney, found that during the past decade those who could afford to move out of council estates had done so, leaving the poorest people behind.

The study, *Paying for Britain's Housing*, found that almost three quarters of council tenants relied solely on state benefits for their income. It blamed poverty traps created by housing benefit and social security regulations for preventing thousands of the poorest people from breaking out of what Professor McEneaney described as "the grimiest housing conditions".

He said: "The Thatcher decade saw those who could get out of the social housing sector and into owner-occupation. The lowest income households now live in the worst housing in the worst neighbourhoods. Those are not in the inner cities but in the large post-war council housing estates, five to eight miles from city centres."

"We are not just talking about the peripheral estates of Glasgow. This type of housing can be found in Birmingham, Sheffield and Newcastle. It is the more isolated peripheral estates that now show the worst housing problems."

Professor McEneaney said that 20 per cent of the population had become so detached in income terms from the wealth of the nation that it was almost impossible for them to catch up with the rest of society. While unemployment had played an important part in causing deprivation on council estates, most of those claiming benefit were disabled, long-term sick elderly or single parents. "So even if the economy picks up it will by no means resolve the problems that these estates face."

Seventy per cent of council tenants aged under 24 were on welfare benefit, a proportion which fell to 57 per cent of those aged between 25 and 44 and 51 per cent of those aged 45 to 59. Among pensioners 79 per cent of council tenants relied on benefits compared to

57 per cent of owner-occupiers and 66 per cent of private sector tenants.

Professor McEneaney said: "I cannot stress enough the extent to which there is benefit dependence among those who live in the social rented sector."

The survey found that pensioners in council housing had virtually no assets having spent all their savings, if they had any, before they retired. By contrast owner-occupiers enjoyed the benefits of what Professor McEneaney described as a "virtuous triangle" of the value of their homes, savings and the fact that most had paid off their mortgages.

The survey showed that the lowest level of dependence on benefits was in Bristol (32 per cent of all households), London (33 per cent) and Birmingham (40 per cent) while in Glasgow it was 51 per cent and in Newcastle upon Tyne and Sheffield 45 per cent.

When it came to breaking out of dependency on the state Professor McEneaney said the worst difficulties were faced by families with a combined income between £5,200 and £7,800 who lost 86p in benefit

for every extra £1 they earned. "Instead of creating opportunities for those who want to get out we have created penalties for those who try to climb out of the poverty trap," Professor McEneaney said. "If John Major's vision of an opportunity society is to become a reality we are going to have to address these problems."

Not all of the poor were tenants. In Bristol, half of those with incomes below £5,200 were owner-occupiers, many of them elderly. Overall 10 per cent of owner-occupiers had problems paying their mortgages. While high interest rates played a significant part a lot of those with repayment problems had suffered from other difficulties such as redundancy.

Summing up his findings Professor McEneaney said: "It is misleading to say there is a housing crisis in Britain. The vast majority of the people in our survey were convinced that they lived in the best part of town. But there are major localised difficulties."

Paying for Britain's Housing (Joseph Rowntree Foundation, £9.50)

Type of accommodation	Bristol	Glasgow	London	Newcastle	Sheffield
Owner	64.0	39.5	57.5	49.6	54.1
Local Authority	16.1	54.4	25.7	35.2	32.2
Housing Assoc	3.7	2.9	4.9	7.0	4.2
Private rent	15.4	3.1	11.3	7.2	8.9
Lodger/board	0.7	0.1	0.7	0.9	0.6

Main source* of income by tenure	Owner	Council tenants	Association tenants	Private tenants
Pay	78%	28%	37%	58%
Benefits	21	73	62	40
Interest	1	0	2	2
Occupational pension	1	0	1	1
Other	1	0	0	1

*Main source is defined as constituting more than half of the combined incomes of respondents and spouses (where present)

BBC wins on Tory coverage

By MELINDA WHITSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

RECORD numbers of viewers turned to BBC television for news in the three weeks that led to the resignation of Margaret Thatcher and the election of John Major as prime minister, ratings figures show.

The BBC was consistently ahead of Independent Television News from the resignation of Sir Geoffrey Howe,

with *The Nine O'Clock News* attracting 11.1 million viewers compared to *News At Ten's* 5.4 million.

When Conservative MPs cast their votes in the first ballot, 12.2 million viewers tuned into the BBC's *Six O'Clock News*, against 6.9 million for ITN's *News At 5.40*. From 7pm onwards, the BBC's election special drew 9.3 million viewers compared to ITV's 5.9 million for a special edition of *This Week*.



Mrs Robinson being applauded yesterday by (from left) Charles Haughey, prime minister, John Major, attorney general, Patrick Hillery, former president, and ex-prime ministers Liam Cosgrave and Jack Lynch

Ireland's woman president sworn in

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

MARY Robinson, Ireland's first woman president, was officially inaugurated in Dublin yesterday and said that her term in office would be dedicated to "justice, peace and love".

Mrs Robinson, aged 46, a human rights lawyer and former Irish senator, also extended her hand in friendship and reconciliation to the people of Northern Ireland, a place she said was close to her heart.

In her first speech at Dublin castle, immediately after being sworn in as Ireland's seventh president, she said: "As the person chosen by you to symbolise this Republic and to project our self image to others, I will seek to encourage mutual understanding and tolerance between all the different communities sharing this island."

The 45-minute official ceremony was attended by 500 guests including Charles Haughey, the Irish prime minister, church leaders and members

of the diplomatic corps, including Sir Nicholas Fenn, the British ambassador.

Also present were Northern Ireland politicians, most notably Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionist party security spokesman and MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone. His presence reflects the generally warm response in the unionist community to Mrs Robinson's election.

They appreciate her belief that articles two and three of the Irish constitution, which claim jurisdiction over Northern Ireland, should be modified so as not to represent a threat to the Protestant community, and her decision to resign from the Irish Labour party because she considered the Anglo-Irish Agreement unfair to unionists.

Mrs Robinson, whose signing of the Presidential Declaration of Office was marked by a 21-gun salute, was elected to the largely ceremonial office on November 9. Her election is being

widely interpreted as a milestone on the way to a more open, pluralist and modern Irish society.

As well as being the first woman president, she is the first candidate to succeed to the presidency without the backing of Mr Haughey's Fianna Fail party. Mrs Robinson is also the first Liberal and the first feminist president.

She brought together in her campaign traditional supporters of the parties on the extreme left and the centre right.

It is already being said that while Mrs Robinson has no real power, her presence in the official residence in Phoenix Park is making Fianna Fail modify its uncompromising approach to social issues such as divorce and abortion, and to contemplate more flexible positions on political issues such as the future of articles two and three.

Diary, page 16

Prisoners return to April riot jail

By RONALD FAUX

THE first prisoners to be admitted to Strangeways, Manchester, since the riots of last April arrived yesterday.

Over the next two weeks 192 men will be returned from the temporary prisons set up in cells at police stations throughout the north. The men will move into K wing at Strangeways, one of the least damaged areas, which also contains the prison hospital.

The Home Office said that the admissions would help to relieve pressure on the emergency prisons. It would be three years before the £60 million repair and refurbishment of the prison was completed and about 1,000 inmates were contained there.

Strangeways would then have cells with integral sanitation, ending the ritual of "slopping out" and the overcrowding which is believed to have led to the violent riots. At that time, 1,649 prisoners were in Strangeways, many of them three to a cell and with a large number held on remand.

The improved Strangeways will have better security and more facilities for prison staff. The prison officers believe that new institutions coming into service and a policy of having fewer prisoners on remand will ease the pressure on prisons which led to the Manchester riots.

An investigation was launched yesterday into a five-hour riot on Sunday which left two prison officers injured at Norwich prison. The trouble began after staff foiled a mass breakout attempt.

Last month, Mr Gander described overcrowding at the prison as scandalous. Men were living three to a cell designed for one. The prison holds about 600 inmates.

Ripper's wife sues for libel

Sonia Sutcliffe, wife of the Yorkshire Ripper, launched a High Court libel action yesterday over a newspaper allegation that she had a holiday "fling" with a Greek travel representative who was the image of her husband.

Mrs Sutcliffe, aged 40, is suing News Group Newspapers, publishers of the *News of the World*, which carried the story of her holiday.

The jury was told that Mrs Sutcliffe, from Bradford, West Yorkshire, whose husband was convicted in 1981 of the murder of thirteen women, claimed the story was fabricated and denies the allegation. The case continues today.

UDM chief wins

Roy Lytk yesterday held on to his position as president of the Nottingham-based Union of Democratic Mineworkers. In a low poll, he received 2,323 votes to defeat his rival and deputy, Neil Greaves, by a margin of 106 votes. Mr Lytk, who will retain his position for a further two years, welcomed his re-election but criticised his members for apathy in the postal ballot. The union has about 15,000 members.

Double killing

A man who killed his mother and grandmother and who was discovered by police "dancing to music and smiling" was ordered to be detained at a secure psychiatric unit by a Central Criminal Court judge yesterday. William Mullin, aged 20, of Maida Vale, northwest London, admitted manslaughter on grounds of diminished responsibility. The court was told that he had suspected schizophrenia.

Bounty trials

Special constables, who work as part-time volunteer police officers, are to be paid "bounties" under a two-year Home Office experiment designed to improve recruitment. Under the trial, special constables in London and two provincial forces could get £400-£900 a year, depending on their length of service and the rules of the scheme.

Gare Loch readies for action

By KERRY GILL

HUNDREDS of wives, mothers and daughters of Scottish fishermen will gather outside the Royal Navy's submarine base at Faslane, on the Gare Loch, tomorrow, while members of the Clyde Fishermen's Association meet Archie Hamilton, the armed forces minister, in London.

The peaceful demonstration, in which flowers will be laid at the Faslane gates, follows the loss of four fishermen from the *Antares*, a local fishing boat, when the vessel was dragged underwater by HMS Trenchant, a hunter-killer submarine, off the Isle of Arran last week.

West coast fishermen and their families are growing increasingly angry over the government's refusal to suspend submarine activities pending the introduction of safety measures that would protect fishing boats.

Yesterday, two fishing boats surveyed the Gare Loch, took echo soundings of the seabed depth and checked shore-to-shore distances in preparation for a blockade, should the meeting with Mr Hamilton prove fruitless.

Minister denies role in Iraq deal

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ALAN Clark yesterday rejected newspaper claims that he helped British firms circumvent an arms embargo on Iraq when he was at the trade department nearly three years ago.

The denial by Mr Clark, now a defence minister, was relayed to the Commons by Timothy Sainsbury, the minister for trade, with Labour backbenchers calling for Mr Clark's resignation.

The affair arises from the minute of a meeting Mr Clark had with the Machine Tool Trades Association at the trade and industry department in January 1988. According to the association's record, Mr Clark advised manufacturers to emphasise the "peaceful" applications of their machinery, which was allegedly also capable of making artillery shells, when seeking export licences.

Mr Sainsbury accepted that machine tools could be put to civil or military use. He also confirmed that Mr Clark had seen the association. He said the meeting had been arranged to discuss the application of government guidelines forbidding the export to Iraq of

lethal equipment or equipment that could prolong the war with Iran.

"Mr Clark strongly denies the interpretation put on the remarks alleged to have been made by him in *The Sunday Times* article. I will not comment on the record of the meeting kept by the MTTA, which was not sent to my department at the time, as I am advised that to do so might prejudice possible proceedings."

Greville Janner, Labour MP for Leicester West, said that licences had been wrongly granted, either deliberately or negligently, and Mr Clark should resign. Martin O'Neill, Labour's defence spokesman, said that until they were told whether the DTI version of the discussion differed from that of the association, they would continue to pursue the matter. Conservative MPs accused Labour of generating a synthetic row.

Charles Kennedy, president of the Liberal Democrats, said the minister's statement was calculated to obscure, confuse and cloud the issues. He demanded the fullest possible disclosure of the facts.

Kasparov searches for winning way out of a chess marathon

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

GARY Kasparov, the world champion, postponed yesterday's 17th game against Anatoly Karpov in the world championship in Lyons, France, to devote the day to a search for a win in the 16th game, started on Saturday and adjourned on Sunday night after 88 moves.

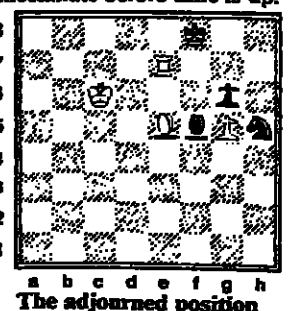
In the adjourned position Kasparov has the advantage of rook against knight, but Karpov has set up a fortress which it may be impossible to breach. The game has already lasted 11 hours and Kasparov has shown every sign of continuing the battle by sealing his 89th move. The game resumes today.

The record for the longest world championship game was between Korchnoi and Karpov, game five, in the Philippines in 1978, which ended in a draw by stalemate on move 124. The previous record was in the 20th game of the Tal-Borjinnik match in Moscow in 1961 which was drawn after 121 moves.

If Kasparov is to win the 16th game he must infiltrate with his king to the d8 square. That sounds simple, but the configuration of the pieces makes it extraordinarily difficult. Boris Spassky the former world champion, says that Kasparov (white) should win and that a computer could probably find the correct solution.

Kasparov has two pitfalls to avoid. First, if the same position occurs on the board three times the game is an automatic draw, as it is if a game continues for 50 moves beyond the last capture or pawn move. The last capture in this game was on move 60, but the last pawn move was

move 64. Having played his sealed move, Kasparov has a further 25 moves before the 50-move guideline. He must find a way to move a pawn, capture a piece, or deliver a forced checkmate before time is up.



The adjourned position

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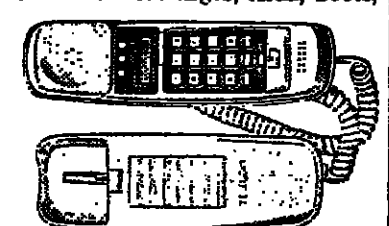
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Still life: art enthusiasts queuing at the Royal Academy, London, yesterday, for the Monet exhibition which closes on Sunday. By then, 500,000 people will have seen it, making it the most popular staged by the academy

Judge blames police for Gail Kinchin's death in gun siege

By CRAIG SETON

A JUDGE yesterday called for an enquiry into the deliberate suppression by West Midlands police of a highly critical report on the shooting by police ten years ago of a pregnant 16-year-old girl who was being used as a shield by her boyfriend.

Mr Justice Hodgson, sitting at Birmingham High Court, yesterday awarded Gail Kinchin's mother, Josephine Wood, £8,155 damages against the force for its failures during the siege in which Miss Kinchin was shot, and castigated the force for suppressing a secret senior officer's report.

The judge's remarks will seriously embarrass West Midlands police, whose former serious crime squad is already being investigated by West Yorkshire police over allegations of fabricated evidence. Last night the force said it was considering whether to appeal.

The judge, who had adjourned judgment from October, said he could not accept that Tom Meffan, now assistant chief constable (crime) of the force, had forgotten about the report he had prepared as a detective chief superintendent, which came to light only

on the last day of the previous hearing. "Nor does it seem to me possible to avoid the conclusion that it was deliberately suppressed by someone of high rank in the Birmingham police force."

The judge said the document contained a number of highly relevant criticisms of the police handling of the incident in which the girl was hit three times by bullets fired by two police marksmen. She was being used as a shield on a darkened landing of a block of flats in Rubery, Birmingham, by David Paget, her boyfriend, who advanced on the



Gail Kinchin: pregnant when she was shot dead

officers firing from a shotgun.

Mr Justice Hodgson, finding for her mother, said that if Mr Meffan's report had not been disclosed when it was "there was a real risk that an injustice would have been done". Mrs Wood, aged 49, of King's Heath, Birmingham, had sued West Midlands police for negligence over her daughter's death. The girl died from her injuries and Paget served a seven-year jail sentence for manslaughter.

Steven Jones, Mrs Wood's solicitor, said after yesterday's judgment that her civil action could have been settled in half the time if the secret report had been disclosed. "I think there may have been a cover-up," he said.

Mr Justice Hodgson said that Miss Kinchin, who was pregnant with Paget's baby, had been taken hostage by him in June 1980 after she had returned to live with her mother and stepfather. Paget, then 31, who had a criminal past, was armed with a shotgun and had hit Mrs Wood over the head and shot and injured her husband.

He took the girl to his flat in Rubery, Birmingham, and six off-duty policemen armed with revolvers took up positions. Two were on a darkened aisle outside the first floor flat when Paget emerged holding the girl in front of him. When he fired, the two officers fired back nine times. Miss Kinchin was hit three times.

Counsel for Mrs Wood had argued that the two officers should never have been in an unlit position from which there was no retreat and which left them little option over their course of action. The court was told that the police operation was negligent and led to Miss Kinchin's death.

In his findings, the judge said the failure to provide any lighting was the immediate cause of the girl's death. That it was a breach of police duty was, in effect, conceded by Mr Meffan in his report.

After yesterday's hearing, Mrs Wood said: "I am pleased the truth has come out after so long. I have said all along the command structure and not the two officers was to blame."

BT wants to ring the changes on phone number snobbery

By MARK DOWNING AND JULIAN ROLLINS

JUST as Londoners begin to come to terms with their division into 071s and 081s, British Telecom has proposed an innovation that could promote even finer social distinctions. However, this time it will not be only Londoners who are affected.

British Telecom wants to add one more digit to all telephone codes. This means that in London 071s and 081s would become 0171s and 0181s, and outside the capital Birmingham, for instance, would become 0121. When existing numbers run out, British Telecom could allocate 0271 and 0221 numbers, then 0371 and so on.

There's the rub. Those who have recently moved to an area — the new money — would then be distinguishable from residents of long standing, with 0171s looking down their noses at 0271s, who would in turn despise 0371s. This is no small matter

when estate agents already emphasise the difference between 071 and 081 as a selling point in the property market. 071 has come to represent the cosmopolitan, up-and-coming inner city, while 081 has been equated with anonymous suburbia.

A BT spokesman said that the country would run out of numbers by the end of the decade if the changes, which the company has recommended to the regulatory body Ofcom, should be made in 1995, were not implemented.

"This is because of the sheer demand for new lines, with 90 per cent of the population now having phones, people installing second lines and lines for faxes or burglar alarms," he said.

The proposals will be debated by the Telecommunications and Addressing Board, comprising representatives of British Telecom, Mercury, cellular phone and cable tele-

vision companies, but the final decision is Ofcom's.

"We are hoping for a decision as soon as possible so that we can give our customers as much notice as possible and set the necessary engineering work in train," BT said.

The company had not wanted to move London subscribers on to the proposed new system when the 071 and 081 codes were introduced last May because it would have broken the national pattern of STD codes. Despite fears of chaos, the switch to the new codes was smooth.

BT does not yet know what the changes would cost. They will, however, be much easier to make on the new digital exchanges being phased in.

The spokesman said confusion to customers and costs involved in changing stationery and signs would be minimised by giving ample warning.

Arts campaigners want cash doubled

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN should spend twice as much as it does on the arts. To approach the subsidy levels of other European countries it should commit 1 per cent of all public expenditure to culture, the National Campaign for the Arts said yesterday.

Launching a new Manifesto for the Arts, Simon Mundy, director of the campaign, said: "Britain has been a late starter in the idea of public support for culture. There are large areas of the country where it is blindingly badly funded."

The manifesto calls for central and local government to increase total spending to £2 billion a year — almost double what is spent now — to create a cultural infrastructure equal to that in countries like France and Germany. Subsidised performing arts companies should have their deficits cleared and be protected against inflation.

One of the most controversial recommendations is for secondary levies on auction sales, second-hand book sales and video and audio tapes, with the income channelled back into the creative process. This could benefit publicly-funded museums and galleries by enhancing their purchase funds. "Playing the auction houses is a rich man's game which far outstrips the national institutions' ability to play," Mr Mundy said.

The manifesto calls for a European network for arts and heritage to co-ordinate the interests of artists and the groups representing them on a continental basis. It calls on the United Kingdom to rejoin the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.

A Manifesto for the Arts (National Campaign for the Arts, £5).

Ten-lane strategy to beat M25 jams

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

PLANS to increase parts of the M25 to ten lanes were unveiled yesterday by Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary.

The transport department is spending £1 billion on widening the 119-mile London orbital motorway to eight lanes over the next decade, and Mr Rifkind said yesterday that he had asked for plans to be drawn up to give the busiest sections five lanes on each carriageway. Consultants have warned Mr Rifkind that the existing plans would not meet future demand.

Mr Rifkind said that the busiest western stretch, south of the M4, which carries more than 140,000 vehicles a day, would be a priority area. Work may not start until the late 1990s and would have to be "economically and environmentally justified".

The initial widening to four lanes on each carriageway could be completed in about four years. Lighting will also be extended to the entire motorway route, apart from the Swanley to Sevenoaks section, at a cost of £20 million. A further £50 million is to be spent on electronic

message boards to advise of problems ahead. When congestion is at its worst, electronic detectors, costing £15 million, linked to traffic lights, will prevent vehicles from joining the motorway.

Mr Rifkind said in a parliamentary answer yesterday: "The plan contains a number of important traffic management measures to assist drivers and improve safety and traffic flows. I am sure it will be welcomed by many users of the M25 and by communities that have been relieved of traffic by the M25."

In the longer term, the department will press ahead with the studies of four orbital corridors outside the M25, as outlined in a white paper last year. Those include: the east-west corridor north of London between the M40 and the ports of Felixstowe and Harwich; the east-west corridor south of London; a further Thames crossing east of Dartford; and a route between the M3 and the M40. A circular route around London inside the M25 has been ruled out for now. Mr Rifkind's statement was welcomed by the British Road Federation.

Island's fire fighters could be cut off by bureaucracy

By DAVID YOUNG

HOLY Island, cut off from the mainland twice a day by the sea and for ten minutes every hour by British Rail now faces having its voluntary fire service cut off by a tide of bureaucracy.

The 180 islanders are to meet in their village hall tomorrow evening to try to find eight volunteers who are under 55 and who would be prepared to attend a weekly training session. If they fail, the island volunteer fire service will have to be disbanded and emergency cover provided instead from Berwick-upon-Tweed, 15 miles to the north, when the tide is out and by helicopter from Alnwick, 15 miles to the south, when it is in.

The island has had its own force of unpaid fire-fighters for the past five years since Northumberland county council provided a fire tender. Before that, a length of hose, a handcart and community spirit were all that protected property on

the island from fire. However, the new Control of Substances Hazardous to Health regulations mean that part-time volunteer firemen must be trained in dealing with spillages and fires involving potentially dangerous materials. The regulations also state that the volunteers have to be under 55, which means that several of the existing crew and their leader, retired shop keeper Mr Douglas Cromarty, who is 64, must stand down.

Northumberland county council has decided that the volunteer crew should be disbanded and cover provided from the mainland. At high tide a helicopter from RAF Boulmer on the Northumberland coast would take off, collect an emergency fire crew at Alnwick and then fly it to the island to man the fire tender.

Mr Cromarty said: "It could take at least 45 minutes before a helicopter arrives and even when the tide

is out and the causeway clear it would take half an hour for a fire tender to come from Berwick. There is also the London-Edinburgh main railway running between the main road and the causeway and the level crossing on the road to the island can be closed for ten minutes at a time when a train is due.

"We hope we can find enough volunteers on the island who will meet the new requirements and allow it to keep some form of local emergency cover."

The existing crew also provides cover for the historic Lindisfarne castle and the priory which in the summer attract thousands of visitors.

The volunteer crew, which has dealt with 11 fires in five years, also pumps out sinking boats and, although the pet population is small and trees few, it has rescued one cat stuck on a branch.

Leading article, page 17

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Farmers 'face disaster if subsidy cuts are imposed'

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH agriculture will slide from depression into disaster unless action is taken to arrest its decline, Sir Simon Gourlay, president of the National Farmers' Union (NFU), said yesterday at the annual Royal Smithfield Show at Earl's Court, London. Farm income this year was at its lowest level in real terms since the second world war, he said. His warning came as thousands of farmers, including a British contingent, staged a protest march in Brussels against proposals for sharp cuts in farm subsidies which are being discussed by more than 100 nations as part of measures to liberalise world trade.

Sir Simon said: "Pressure from the Americans and their allies in the GATT [General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade] talks has forced the

European Community to offer a cut of 30 per cent in support for agriculture. Cuts of this severity would spell disaster for British farmers. There has to be another way."

The NFU's "supply management" concept, which would compensate farmers for compulsory restraints on agricultural production throughout the EC, was the only realistic way to control food surpluses while maintaining farming incomes and preventing an exodus from the land.

Sir Simon brushed aside differences with the Country Landowners' Association (CLA), which on Sunday described supply management as fraught with danger for British farmers. The association, he said, had not thought through the consequences of its position.

"The CLA wants a freeing-up of the planning system, presumably so that farmers and landowners could sell houses and housing plots and development land and get out of their present problems like that," Sir Simon said. That might be fine for some but it was not a solution for tenant farmers and was not the way to protect the countryside.

He said that over the past decade between 20,000 and 30,000 farmers had gone out of business, and a similar number was likely to leave the land over the next ten years. "If we get the worst scenario, then the exodus could be closer to 60,000, accounting for about half the present number of full-time farmers."

Among the ideas proposed by the NFU is a compulsory "set-aside" scheme for cereal growers under which they would be paid to take a proportion of their land out of production.

Sir Simon said it was simply not realistic to talk of abolishing price support and moving straight to a free market in farm trade. If the EC showed it was serious about reducing the food surpluses which disturbed world trade, the main objections of the Community's trading partners would be met.

Farm workers yesterday lodged a claim with the Agricultural Wages Board for a 50 per cent pay rise next year, which would lift the minimum rate from £122.10 to £180 a week. The NFU called the claim unrealistic.

The NFU is to meet representatives of the main supermarket chains early next month to discuss farmers' complaints of excessive profit-taking by the big stores, it was disclosed yesterday.

Gatt talks, page 1



Gourlay: only alternative is 'supply management'



Two ballet veterans, Dame Alicia Markova (right) and Dame Ninette de Valois, at Sadler's Wells theatre, London, after a ballet marking Dame Alicia's 80th birthday. Review, page 22

Hull presses for return of power to go with its prosperity

SHOULD anyone call directory enquiries in Hull there will be no charge. The information will come not from British Telecom but from an operator working for the city's own communications company.

Unusual among cities within the UK, Hull maintains its own successful and innovative telephone service, run by a company formed and owned by the city council. It has provided subscribers with the latest digital equipment. Darryl Stephenson, Hull's deputy chief executive, said yesterday: "It does seem ironic that we can operate such a successful concern as the telephone company and yet we have lost our powers to provide many of the basic services to our customers."

The Labour-controlled city council has been campaigning for the restoration of its powers to deal with social services, education, waste disposal, strategic planning, fire and police services since it lost them to Humberside county council when it was created in 1974. "We want to be the enablers and providers of a full range of services to meet the needs of all our customers, tenants and industrial and commercial concerns. It will aid Hull's development into the next century as we become increasingly important as a gateway to Europe with all the opportunities that offers. Without the return of our powers it will be like fighting with one hand tied behind our back," Mr Stephenson said.

The decision of Michael

Michael Heseltine wants to allow cities to opt out of their surrounding counties. Peter Davenport reports on the view from one

Heseltine, the environment secretary, to order an investigation by civil servants into the feasibility of allowing big cities to opt out of their surrounding counties would effectively re-create old, autonomous county boroughs. Hull is a member of the Major Cities Group which has been campaigning for the restoration of county borough status. Patrick Doyle, the leader of Hull council, is also chairman of the group. Last night he said the group would be seeking a meeting with Mr Heseltine in the new year to press their claims.

Last week the Boundary Commission said that the area on the south of the Humber should be returned to Lincolnshire and suggested that the part remaining on the north side of the river be renamed East Yorkshire in response to overwhelming public opinion. The present population of the county is 850,000 and there are complaints that Hull, with its 250,000 residents and being the centre for industry, business, commerce and shopping dominates the county.

City council officials argued yesterday that if the commission's

recommendations are accepted by Mr Heseltine, then the only sensible solution to local government on the north bank of the Humber would be make Hull a county borough with a new authority catering for the remaining, mainly rural, area. Mr Stephenson said that the city could be used as a test bed for the rest of county borough powers in advance of the other members of the "big eleven" receiving the same treatment.

In the 16 years since it lost significant powers Hull has transformed itself from a city heavily dependent on its fishing fleet. Today it has a diverse economy handling a growing amount of import and export trade, oil refining and a sizable pharmaceutical sector.

Although the fishing fleet has diminished, fish is still an important element of the economy with 40 per cent of Iceland's total catch being landed at Hull and supplying a large, local processing industry. Almost £40 million of central and local government funding has financed 600 projects and pulled in large amounts of private capital.

Last week Helgi Agustsson, the Icelandic ambassador to London, visited the city and was shown around its still changing waterfront and urban landscape. On seeing the improvements, he remarked: "Where is the recession I keep hearing about?"

Leading article, page 17

Fans tell of disorder at stadium on day 95 died

THERE was mass disorder outside Hillsborough football stadium shortly before 95 people were crushed to death inside the ground, a supporter told the inquest yesterday.

Another said the tunnel leading to the stand in which the supporters died was jam-packed solid before the FA Cup semi-final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest on April 15 last year.

Mr Thomas Kenneth Hilton, an accountant's assistant, clerk, of Thornton, Liverpool, told the ninth day of the inquest in Sheffield, South Yorkshire, that there were hundreds of people outside the ground when he arrived at about 2.40pm. "Everyone seemed to arrive at exactly the same time. It was a mass disorder. There were no queues at all."

Mr Graeme Hurst, a sales general manager from Crosby, Liverpool, said he made his way into the ground through the tunnel leading to the Leppings Lane stand at about 2.50pm. "The tunnel was jam-packed solid and you were carried with the general flow of people. The enclosure in front was jam-packed. There was no way you could move in there."

Graham Richardson, a Liverpool supporter, said the perimeter gates were closed when he arrived at the ground. "It was getting close to kick-off time so people were getting more and more angry." When the gates were opened he was forced on by the crush behind. People were shouting "get back", and a policeman at the front fence was trying to help by bending spikes on the railings. Mr Richardson said: "People were in distress and I did not have any difficulty realising that."

Shortly afterwards there was a smaller surge in the area where a crush barrier collapsed and Mr Richardson saw people falling over.

The hearing continues today.

Pension age test

The legality of Britain's unequal pensionable retirement ages is to be tested at the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg. A High Court judge yesterday referred the matter to Europe at the request of the Equal Opportunities Commission with the agreement of Tony Newton, the social security secretary. The aim is to seek a ruling on whether the different pensionable ages for men and women — 65 and 60 respectively — unlawfully discriminate against men under European law.

Prison art

Frank Cook, aged 38, who is serving a seven-year sentence in Hull prison for firearm offences, is to have two pieces of sculpture shown at the Metropolitan Gallery, New York, next year.

Zeebrugge case

A judge yesterday approved a proposal by relatives of Zeebrugge ferry disaster victims to bring a High Court test case against P & O European Ferries to claim damages for mental suffering. It will involve up to 12 claimants.

Woman dies

A man has been reported for murder and has been detained at a secure unit after the death of an elderly woman patient in the psychiatric ward of Watford general hospital on Sunday morning.

Soccer claim

Andrew Spencer, aged 29, a soccer supporter from Rothwell, Leeds, is suing police for the price of his match ticket after being wrongfully arrested when football fans rioted at Bournemouth last season.

Fire death

A child died and two others were badly burnt when fire broke out in a flat in Northampton, yesterday. Their mother, Maggie Wright, was also seriously hurt after being rescued from the flames.

Doctor banned

Dr Mohammed Ali Khan, registered in South Shields, Tyne & Wear, was yesterday banned by the General Medical Council from practising as a doctor, after being found guilty in March of indecently assaulting a patient.

Cannabis charge

A gardener on the Queen's Sandringham estate has been charged with importing cannabis and possession of the drug. Anthony Townley, aged 28, of West Newton, Norfolk, is also accused of having a shotgun without a licence.

Drugs raid

Police have seized a large amount of "speed" after raiding an alleged drug factory on an industrial estate in Hitchin.

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COMPAQ

By JOHN WINDER
AND PETER MULLIGAN

He said: "It would be wrong in principle for us to leave in place a loophole which enables an authority to deny its charge payers the full benefit of capping. This bill puts the matter beyond doubt for the future."

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Battle was joined last night by Dr David Owen, the former SDP leader, who said that Britain should not accept any treaty wording that accepted a single currency in principle for

EUROPE

"Were we to abdicate and allow Europe to move on without us, there is no doubt what the outcome would be. Five years after the creation of monetary and social union by the rest of the Community Britain would make a belated application to join."



Mrs Chalker said that she had got extra money for the overseas aid budget. She added: "I shall concentrate on doing that. I have had no row of any kind either with the prime minister or with Chris Patten."

Sir Patrick Mayhew, Attorney-general, said that as soon as the grounds of appeal of the six were lodged and the Crown had had the opportunity to consider them, the case could be expedited; but the listing of the case was for the court authorities.

Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow, apologised to the foreign secretary for suggesting last week that he had avoided national service. During clashes about the Gulf, Mr Dalyell said that while he was tank crew "firing live ammunition" Douglas Hurd was in the foreign office.

British aid

United Kingdom bilateral aid to developing countries last year totalled £1,113 million, Lynda Chalker, overseas aid minister, said in a written reply. A further £674 million was given through multilateral agencies of which £305 million went through the EC.

Regulations to permit the sale of irradiated foods produced under licence will be laid before Parliament this month, John Gummer, agriculture minister, said in a written reply.

Allan Stewart, whose return to the Scottish Office was announced on Friday, will have responsibility for industry, including training, and local government, Ian Lang, Scottish secretary, announced.

Income from tolls on the Severn bridge in the past financial year was £13,609,424, Christopher Chope, roads and traffic minister, said in a written reply.

Commons (2.30): Questions: Defence; prime minister. Debate on the EC budget for 1991.
Lords (2.30): New Roads and Street Works bill and Gaming (Amendment) bill, committee stages.

By ROBIN OAKLEY
POLITICAL EDITOR

Mr Grist, the under secretary, who had joined Mr Hunt and Sir Wyn Roberts, the minister of state, in backing Michael Heseltine for the party leadership, did not maintain the usual silence of the dispossessed. Instead he said openly: "I have been dropped. I am sad and disappointed. I did not think I had done anything wrong. I am a bit miffed."



By SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL REPORTER

WHAT singles out John Taylor's selection to fight Cheltenham for the Conservatives is the choice of a black candidate for a constituency with only a small ethnic community. The other four Asian or black Tory candidates will be standing in areas of Birmingham, Bradford and London with large immigrant populations.

By NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

COMPANY donations to the Conservative party rose by 16 per cent last year, according to a survey carried out by a union-backed research body. Gifts totalled £3.4 million in the 12 months to the end of March, £500,000 more than the previous year.

PARTY CASH

£38,865 making it the leading donor with a total of £150,320. Three companies, Rank Organisation, the leisure group, Barings, the merchant banker and Caledonian Investments, the investment and finance group, doubled their gifts from £25,000 to £50,000. The top 10 donations account for a little over a quarter of industry's support for the Tory party.

Labour Research cites recent reports that the Tories are £5 million in the red. It says that Chris Patten, the new party chairman, and Lord Beaverbrook, the treasurer, have work to do to find the £20 million the party needs to fight the next election.

Mr Hattersley said that Labour would press for London to be the headquarters of a European central bank that would be required by monetary union. "London possesses the expertise which certainly equals and probably exceeds that available anywhere else in the Community. It would certainly not be in the City's interest for it to be located in any other capital."

Talk of monetary union had raised again all the old arguments about sovereignty. But it was at least arguable that a country within a monetary union — able to influence the level of interest rates and the supply of money — was more sovereign than a nation outside which had to wait to see what the union decided. Sometimes sovereignty was increased when it was pooled.

Mr Hattersley backed an enlarged Community, taking in Austria, Sweden, Norway, Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

By JOHN WINDER

THE publication of racist and anti-semitic pamphlets has increased in the past year, the Attorney-general told MPs yesterday. Sir Patrick Mayhew said during question time that police enquiries were continuing in 16 cases.

ANTI-SEMITISM

decided not to refer cases to the Crown Prosecution Service. He accepted that there had been an increase in such literature, if it could be dignified by that name.

Ivan Lawrence, QC, Con-

LORDS DISPUTE

THE government was urged yesterday to make a statement on whether it intended to proceed with legislation paving the way for the prosecution of alleged Nazi war criminals (Richard Ford writes).

Merlyn Rees, chairman of the all-party war crimes group, which wants legislation brought in, said that a statement was needed in the wake of John Major's appointment. Mr Major voted against the principle of the legislation when it was debated last year, but Downing Street said that

SCOTLAND

THE government will ensure that the poll tax is made fairer, Ian Lang, the new Scottish secretary, said yesterday, implying that it would be based on people's ability to pay.

Mr Lang was questioned closely on the proposed review of the tax when he held his first party press conference in Edinburgh since taking office. He did not rule out abolition of the poll tax, although he said: "Anyone who suggests that the only solution is to abolish it owes it to the people to bring forward a detailed, costed, well worked out alternative."

Changes, he said, would fulfil the commitment given by all three leadership candidates for a fundamental review. "I want to see a system for raising finance for local government that is fair and that is seen to be fair", he added.

SCOTLAND

accepted, that there are unfairnesses within the system as there are within any taxation. We have been working towards removal of those unfairnesses. What is also important is that we achieve general acceptance from the electorate that the tax is fair."

On devolution, he said: "We will look at any proposal that is put to us in areas of devolution and other constitutional activity, but let me make it clear that we are the Conservative and Unionist party and will not subscribe to anything that undermines the integrity of that union, and that is absolutely fundamental".

He denied the Scottish constitutional convention's proposals for an assembly with tax-raising powers. "I would not subscribe to anything that led to the *severance of Scotland* *being more heavily*

taxed than would be the people in the rest of the United Kingdom", he said.

Michael Hirst, president of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Association, said the divisions that had rent the party during the past year were over. He would "come down like a ton of bricks" on anyone who started personal vendettas against others. "There is no place for that in our party. We have an urgent responsibility to make sure there is a harvest of Tory gains at the next election."

Lord Sanderson, the Scottish party chairman, said that it had been evident during the last days of the Paisley by-election campaigns that John Major's election as prime minister had been favourably received. 'There is a new wind blowing which I hope will result in many more constituencies being returned for us at the next election', he said.

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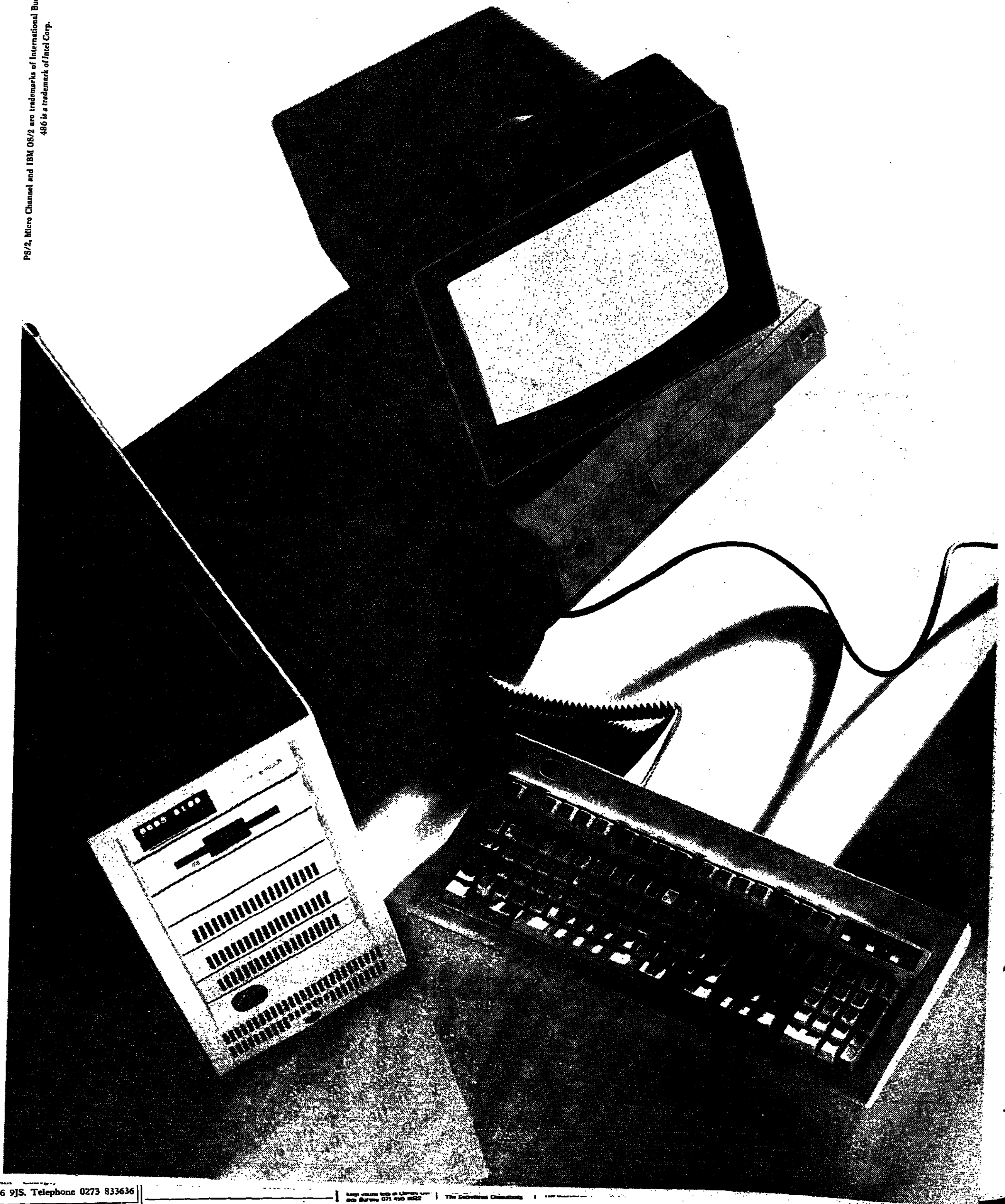
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IBM



Inhaler offers adult asthma sufferers longer-term relief

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

AN ASTHMA drug launched yesterday is claimed to offer significant improvements in the treatment of a condition that affects up to two million people in Britain and is growing rapidly.

Serevent, developed by Glaxo, is taken by inhalation twice a day and eliminates the symptoms of wheezing, coughing, breathlessness and sleep disturbances in most adult asthma patients. It will be prescribed immediately in conjunction with existing steroid drugs and should eliminate the need for frequent use of existing inhalers for the relief of symptoms, which are caused by constriction of airways in the lungs.

Its main advantage over the existing drugs, of which the best known is salbutamol (Ventolin), is the long-term relief it provides. Sufferers may have to use Ventolin inhalers a dozen or more times a day to dilate the airways and control symptoms, and its effects wear off in about four hours. A single

dose of Serevent relieves symptoms for 12 hours, which will make it possible for many asthma sufferers to enjoy a good night's sleep for the first time in years.

Chemically the two drugs are similar, but Serevent achieves its long-term effects by anchoring itself in place, thanks to a long molecule which locks on to receptor sites in the lung.

Serevent attaches itself more slowly than salbutamol, and will not therefore be used for the immediate relief of symptoms, but once in place it stays there. Two doses a day, one in the morning and one at night, should be sufficient.

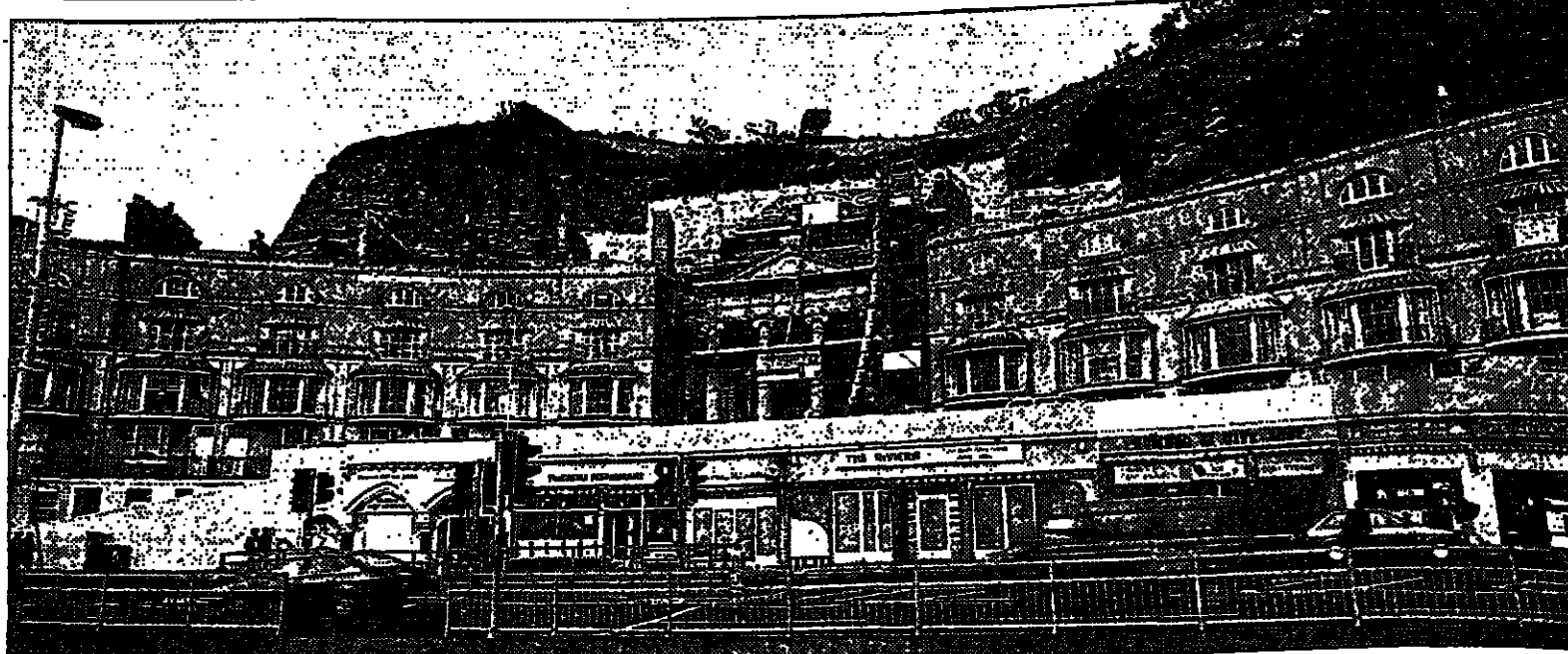
The drug will cost about £1 a day, and is so far licensed only for adults. Further clinical studies are needed before it can be prescribed for children.

Ashley Woodcock, consultant lung physician at Wythenshawe hospital in Manchester, said yesterday that there had been an enormous increase in asthma in the 1970s and 80s. Clinical

studies had shown that Serevent was "a very effective therapy, particularly for night-time symptoms" he said. "I have seen quite a few advances that have not lived up to the claims, but this is really a major improvement."

There is evidence that Serevent controls the inflammation reaction that underlies asthma attacks, as well as diminishing the symptoms, according to John Hall, medical director of Allen & Hanbury's, the Glaxo group company that is marketing the drug. More work would be needed to clarify that aspect of the drug's performance, he said.

Asthma is the commonest chronic disease in the developed world. It causes about 2,000 deaths a year in Britain. Doctors believe that it is still seriously underdiagnosed, and cannot explain why it is increasing so rapidly, though environmental influences such as pollution and allergens such as the house dust mite have been implicated.



Fresh start: St Mary-in-the-Castle, Hastings, East Sussex, in the midst of renovation. Once repaired, it may be used as a 1066 tourist centre

Georgian church restored to its former glory

John Young describes how an elegant Georgian church in Hastings, East Sussex, was saved from destruction and is now being renovated

THE completion of the first phase of the restoration of a Georgian church in Hastings, East Sussex, which a few years ago was considered fit only for demolition, will be marked by a topping-out on December 14. It may have a new life as a tourist centre.

St Mary-in-the-Castle was designed by Joseph Kay and completed in 1825 as the centrepiece of a terrace of

elegant town houses built against a cliff overlooking the sea. The church is fronted by a portico with Ionic columns and was described

by the late Sir Nikolaus Pevsner, the architectural historian, as the best church of the 1820s, belonging to a great continental tradition.

The whole terrace is listed grade II starred.

The name of the church dates from four years after the Norman conquest, when a collegiate chapel was built in a castle on the West Hill for Robert, Count of Eu, who held the Rape of Hastings, a stretch of land containing the port and the castle. By the mid 16th century, the castle and the chapel were in ruins and, in 1581, the land was sold to Sir Thomas Pelham.

In the late 18th century, the old cinque port became a fashionable watering place for London society. The church, seating about 1,500 people, was commissioned by Pelham's descendant, the second Earl of Chichester, as his private chapel, in which the parishioners of the elegant new Regency resort would be invited to worship.

His son, the third earl, became increasingly involved in church affairs as an ecclesiastical commissioner and president of the Church Missionary Society. St Mary-in-the-Castle became the parish church in 1884 and was fully restored four years later.

After the second world war, the congregation declined and the last Anglican service was held on September 13, 1970. The building was leased to the Assembly of God Full Gospel Church but the group could not raise the money for repairs, and the redundant building was sold in 1982.

Demolition and redevelopment proposals submitted by the new owner were rejected by Hastings borough council, which wanted the building preserved. Three years ago, the council bought it, a move said to have been partly prompted by Queen

Elizabeth the Queen Mother, as patron of the Georgian Society.

John Papworth, the architect responsible for the restoration, said that when the council bought the building, large parts of the ceiling were on the floor, rain had poured in and the structural timbers were rotting. Vandals had hurled beams through the roof from the cliff top.

Bill Higginbottom, contract manager of Cox Brothers, the builders carrying out the restoration work, said: "I had never seen anything like it. The floor was inches deep in seagull droppings. We had to clean the whole place before we could even start work."

The building is surrounded by scaffolding and a temporary cover has been put up to allow reconstruction of the curved roof. Building materials have to be loaded and unloaded on the seafront as the approach road runs over the top of a row of shops and cannot support heavy traffic.

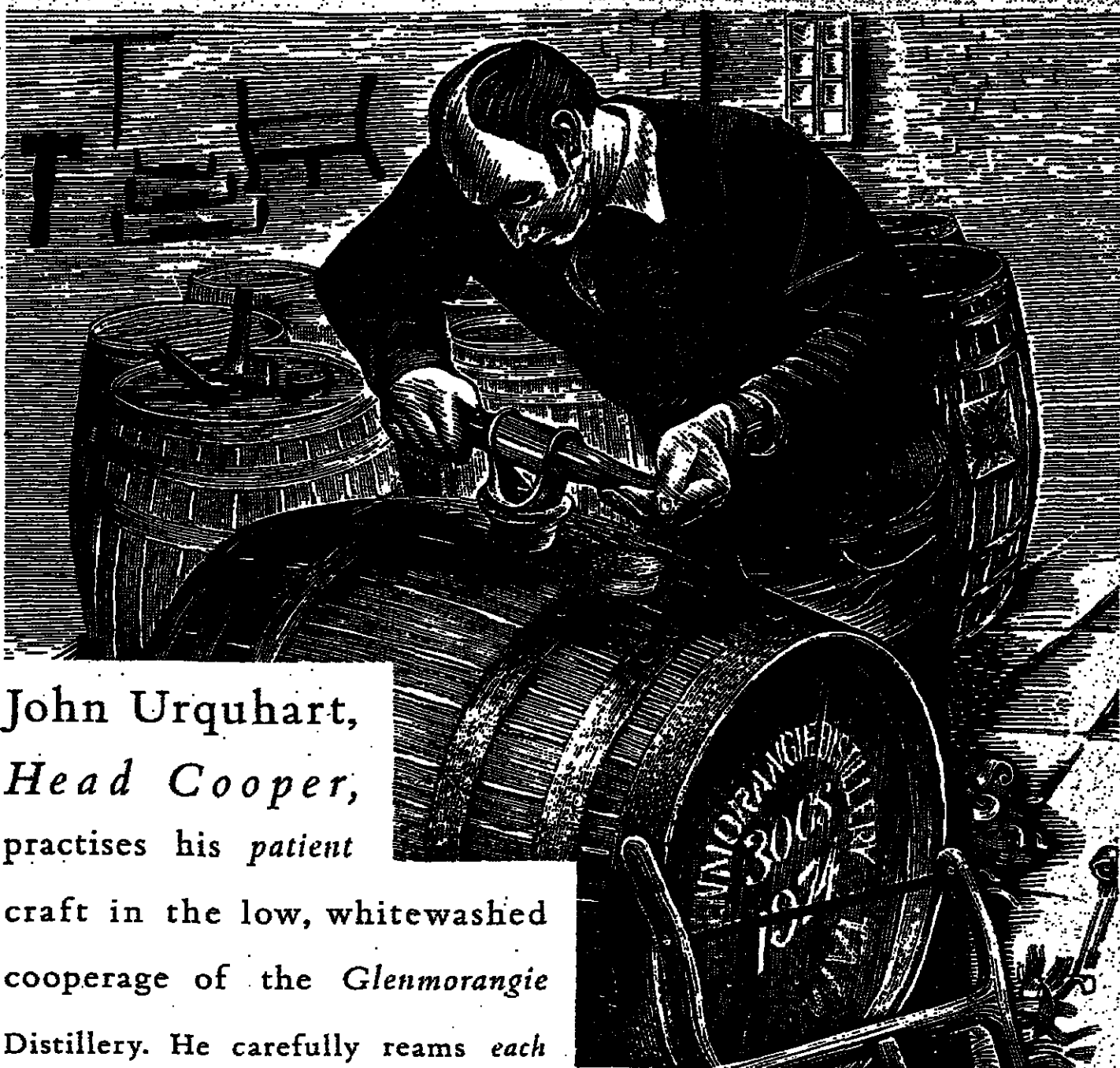
"The men have not only had to develop new skills, but adapt to the old tough ways when stuff was humped around by hand," Mr Higginbottom said. "But they seem to enjoy it much more than working on the average boring modern box."

The first phase of the work is expected to cost about £1.3 million, with help from English Heritage, which is advising on restoration details. A final use for the building has yet to be agreed, but Mr Papworth would like to see it used as a "1066 centre" for tourists. The Queen Mother has been invited to inspect the building next summer.

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Drug trial girl 'knew few details'

From Neil Kelly
in Bangkok

THE younger of two teenage Birmingham girls on trial for attempted drug trafficking knew more about the operation than the older defendant, a police captain told the criminal court yesterday, as the prosecution completed its case against Karen Smith, aged 19, who has pleaded guilty. Patricia Cahill, aged 17, her co-defendant, denies the charge. She is being tried separately in the juvenile court.

Police captain Chatchawal Pusitipong said he had found that Miss Smith knew only in a general way about the planning and itinerary of their trip to Thailand, while Miss Cahill "knew all the details". The judge disallowed one question by Miss Smith's lawyer because it implied, he said, that she had been made to do something against her will. "I don't believe that," he added.

The officer said that dates on the defendants' passports showed that Miss Cahill had obtained her passport for the journey to Thailand before Miss Smith got hers. He had gathered from the defendants that a third party had paid for their air tickets, and that someone, he did not know who, had been due to meet them in Amsterdam on their return.

The trial was adjourned until December 17.

Camelford pollution trial opens

THE South West Water Authority went on trial yesterday, accused of polluting the public water supply which served the town of Camelford in north Cornwall more than two years ago.

The hearing at Exeter crown court is expected to last more than three weeks. The authority denies two charges causing a public nuisance between July 1 and July 31, 1988 and causing poisonous matter to enter the controlled waters of the River Camel.

The first charge alleges that the authority supplied water from the Lowermoor water treatment works containing enough aluminium sulphate to endanger the health or comfort of the public, that it failed to exercise reasonable care to ensure that the water was wholesome and that it endangered public health by not giving a warning.

The second charge alleges that it caused poisonous matter, aluminium sulphate, to enter the Camel.

Before the jury was empanelled Judge Neville asked potential jurors whether any of them, or their close family or friends, were employed by, or had worked for, the authority, had lived in north Cornwall in 1988, or had shares in South West Water, the public company which succeeded the authority. Three men were excluded. The trial was then adjourned until today.

Pan Am 'permitted to ease airport checks'

A FORMER Pan Am security chief said yesterday that the airline was given official permission to ease airport security measures a year before the Lockerbie disaster.

Mr Daniel Soneson, Pan Am's former systems director of corporate security, said that the Federal Aviation Administration which regulates commercial airlines, allowed Pan Am to x-ray luggage rather than search it.

Mr Soneson, general manager of airport services at Fort Lauderdale, Florida, told the disaster enquiry at Dumfries

that the authority gave the "dispensation" at a meeting of airlines in October 1987. He admitted that there was no written record and said that he did not know that no other US airlines were under the impression that security had been eased.

The enquiry has been told that the bomb that blew up Pan Am Flight 103 was hidden in a suitcase carried on a feeder flight from Frankfurt. Baggage from the feeder flight was not subject to security checks before being loaded on to Flight 103 at Heathrow.

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Washington hawks fear deal as they count days to war

From PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

THIS YEAR the smart Advent calendar for Washington marks the tides and moons in the Middle East as well as the Wise Men's Advent Star. It goes beyond Christmas Day to the tenth of Ramadan on March 26. Each date in the countdown to religious celebration is also a date nearer to a possible war.

Those nights on which possible invasion beaches are marked with the war sign of a coloured wave; those with moonless nights to hide invaders are marked with a black crescent; those with both, such as December 19 to 22, are the ones coloured red.

Signs of peace-and-good-will come on the dates of the week beginning December 12, when Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz has been invited to Washington; also between the dates of December 15 and January 15, the day on which the United Nations mandate to use force comes into effect, and the last date on which Secretary of State James Baker is likely to go to Baghdad.

In the days since President Bush made his dramatic offer of direct talks with Iraq, Washington has become increasingly divided over what the move means. Official voices within the administration insist that the planned meetings with President Saddam Hussein and Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, will not be forums in which concessions will be made to Iraq either before or after withdrawal of its occupying force in Kuwait.

The officials, avoiding the

world "ultimatum", say the talks will convey a last message to President Saddam and that they are necessary to reassure domestic opinion. They add that they will discourage potential compromisers around the world from intervening in the dispute as the United Nations deadline of January 15 approaches.

The debate for peace or war, they say, is still open. Nevertheless, the moonless, high-water nights of January 17 to 20 and February 16 to 18 are almost certainly ringed in red on administration calendars.

In general the official voice in Washington is hawkish - too hawkish for several senior officials who listened to Dick Cheney, the defence secretary, yesterday. None the less, for many hawks outside the administration the prospects for an appeaser's peace are still too high. Among others, the diplomatic overtures have alarmed Dr Henry Kissinger, the former Secretary of State, who argues that, far from discouraging would-be mediators, the Baker mission will encourage self-styled peace-makers to conduct mercy dashes to Baghdad.

The result, he believes, would be a fragmentation of the alliance, postponement of the UN deadline, and a stretching out of the military option into the days of Ramadan and the Haj pilgrimage. In such circumstances, Dr Kissinger says, Saudi Arabia's own Islamic institutions will be under pressure that may be intolerable.

Another prominent hawk, William Safire, a columnist on

The New York Times, argues that Mr Baker himself is by nature and instinct almost certain to offer President Saddam a deal that will allow Iraq to retain its military might and enable the dictator to claim credit for subsequent Middle East peace conferences on the Palestinian question. Israeli diplomats, too, fear that will be the outcome.

On the other hand, those whose chief anxiety is to avoid war, even if it means leaving President Saddam to continue as a powerful regional menace, have welcomed the talks. Their hopes are the hawks' fear - diplomacy may gather momentum and eventually force some sort of compromise with a Saddam regime weakened by sanctions.

The professional teachers of regional realpolitik say that a flattened Iraq will be merely a corpse upon which Iran and Syria can gorge, eventually themselves becoming equally dangerous threats. The preference of this camp is for a chastened President Saddam, or a successor, to maintain power. Such is their faith in Mr Baker's magic diplomatic skills that they think this can be achieved without war.

However, the only really important calendar, Mr Bush's, may still be blank. Those who have observed him closely in recent days say he seems well-prepared for war and that, in the aftermath of his trip to Saudi Arabia, he has become increasingly confident that a short, sharp and humiliating defeat can be inflicted upon Iraq, albeit at the cost of several thousand US lives.



Time to go: part of the 400-truck convoy of Samir Geagea's Lebanese Forces, which withdrew from Beirut to comply with a peace agreement

Sanctions spur resourceful Iraqis to produce bumper food crops

From NICHOLAS BEESTON IN BAGHDAD

SANCTIONS may have begun to bite in some areas of the Iraqi economy but the peasants are demonstrating that some sectors can survive, even thrive, under the most stringent embargo.

An elderly Kurdish farmer could barely conceal his pride when he was interviewed on Iraqi television's version of *The Farming World*, recounting in detail this season's increased crop output. With US-Iraqi talks taking place in the coming weeks, ahead of the January 15 UN deadline

for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, the answer to whether sanctions would have worked in the long term by bringing the Iraqi regime to its knees may never be known.

But there is mounting evidence that the sanctions policy failed to take account of Iraq's ability to adapt and survive. After sanctions were first imposed, economic counsellors from the embassies of member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development had private talks in Baghdad on

August 16 to assess Iraq's vulnerability to the embargo.

"With hindsight, the assessments proved to be way off the mark," a diplomat who attended the meeting said. "In particular, I recall one specialist calculating that the country had enough sugar for only 19 days and yet now, four months later, it is still available in the shops along with most other goods."

One example of Iraq's adaptability occurred in October when the then oil minister announced petrol rationing because Iraq did not have the chemical additives needed to refine its crude oil. Within a week, however, another government ministry found that it could manufacture the chemicals. Rationing was lifted, and the oil minister lost his job.

The military sector has displayed a similar resilience, and Western experts said that Iraq has continued its research and development projects.

Before August, Baghdad had relied on overseas suppliers for as much as 75 per cent of its food needs, but the agricultural sector, long neglected by a government with defence and technology priorities, has thrived now that its resources have been diverted to farmers. Although basic items such as bread, rice and

sugar, are rationed, Baghdad's shops are laden with locally produced meat, vegetables, fruit and such luxury goods as cigarettes and whisky, which have been smuggled in from Jordan, Turkey and Iran.

Haumum al-Shamah, a professor of economics at Baghdad University who recently completed a survey on the impact of sanctions, said the industrial sector had been hit by the embargo and 5 to 7 per cent of factories had shut.

"We estimate that 40 per cent of non-military industry would close down in one year, and that by the end of the second year the entire sector would come to a halt if the present conditions persisted," he said. "However, as far as agriculture goes, Iraq should never suffer from shortages, and we estimate that we will actually have a surplus of wheat in a year's time."

One Western diplomat conceded that it was fortunate that the sanctions policy had been eclipsed by diplomatic moves. "I actually had one Iraqi come up and thank me the other day," he said. "He told me that they had tried for years to become agriculturally self-sufficient, and that it looked as though the embargo would accomplish it for them in a matter of months."

Beirut sees last militia go

By ALI JABER IN BEIRUT AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

FOR the first time since the civil war started in 1976, Beirut was yesterday freed of all private armies and militias with the withdrawal of the most formidable of them, the Christian Lebanese Forces, from the Lebanese capital.

The strength of the Lebanese Forces was evident from the 400-strong truck convoy which wound its way out of their stronghold in the Ashrafieh district of east Beirut and headed for the mountains, flying their own red-and-white flags and with tanks plastered with posters of Samir Geagea, their leader.

The convoy included Soviet-made T-54 tanks, 240-mm mortars, 155-mm artillery, armoured personnel carriers, multi-barrel rocket launchers and jeeps and trucks loaded with tonnes of ammunition. A spokesman for the 2,000 militiamen on the march said their ammunition depots had been cleaned out. Government troops guarded their route along the coastal highway as thousands of people, many surprised by the arsenal, lined the roadside.

The Christian militia's withdrawal followed that of the Hezbollah, Amal and Druze Muslim militias. With the capital now free of warring armies, 1,200 government troops, consisting of two army brigades and an infantry battalion, moved into the Christian neighbourhoods in east Beirut to secure the area.

But in Beirut's southern slums, Hezbollah guards at the entrance of their Neor el-Abed headquarters had not relinquished their weapons, in defiance of an army communiqué which gave a warning that all weapons would be seized and their owners arrested.

Once the Lebanese army completes its deployment, President Hrawi intends to form a new cabinet to bring in the warlords. He would then enlarge the parliament and start a diplomatic campaign to force Israel to withdraw from its "security zone". The peace plan calls for the disbanding of all militia by next March and a Syrian troop withdrawal by September 1992.

Arabs in Israeli raid given long jail terms

From RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI yesterday imposed heavy prison sentences on the 12 Arab gunmen whose abortive seaborne raid on an Israeli beach seven months ago led Washington to break off the dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation and thus contributed to the collapse of the Middle East peace process.

The gunmen, all between the ages of 20 and 30, and from the Palestine Liberation Front led by Abu Abbas, were each given 30 years in prison by a military court at Lod. Their leader, Ahmed Khalil al-Wazir, aged 20, shouted defiantly in Arabic: "A Palestinian state will arise."

The underground leadership of the *infidada* or Pales-

tinian uprising yesterday marked the approaching third anniversary of the revolt by saying that "all means of struggle" should be used from now on, an instruction widely interpreted to mean an endorsement by the *infidada* leadership of the use of guns as well as stones and knives in a bid to force Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories.

Israeli security sources said the May 30 raid on a crowded beach at Nizzanin, near Tel Aviv, had been launched from Libya. The attack was foiled and no Israeli lives were lost. The prosecution said plans carried by the gunmen showed they had intended to launch attacks on hotels and Western embassies in Tel Aviv.



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LET IT THROUGH THE TIMES

Source: NRS Oct 1989 - Sept 1990

Victorious Kohl faces problem in sending troops to Gulf



Lafontaine: encouraging peace missions to Iraq

BEFORE the election Helmut Kohl promised that a united Germany would shoulder its international responsibilities. Now the West is waiting to see whether the new German superpower will make good that pledge.

Herr Kohl made the promise most recently when President Bush visited him in the Rhineland last month and politely pressed him for a greater commitment to helping shoulder the burden of international responsibility. The American president had made no secret in the autumn that he was disappointed by the meagre German support he

had received in responding to the Gulf situation and he pressed Herr Kohl to take a more positive lead in future. The chancellor was quick to assure President Bush that he would act as soon as the elections were over. He could not do it until then, he explained, because an amendment to the German Basic Law was necessary in order to make it possible for Germany to send troops outside Nato's area. That amendment would need to be passed by the new Bundestag. It is a promise which will not be easy to keep. The entire Basic Law must now have to be revamped; it was originally

Chancellor Helmut Kohl made a number of campaign promises to the West. Ian Murray examines the difficulties in fulfilling them

written only to last until unification made it possible to create a constitution.

An amendment to allow troops to serve outside Nato areas will be contentious and hard to draft. As the Basic Law stands, the Bundeswehr can be used "for the maintenance of peace". Germany is allowed to "enter a system of collective security; in doing so it

will consent to such limitations upon its rights of sovereignty as will bring about secure and lasting order in Europe and among nations of the world".

Some, like Rupert Scholz, a right-wing lawyer and former defence minister, argue that as it stands this would allow the Bundeswehr to serve outside Nato's area "for the maintenance

of peace". Herr Kohl, however, accepts the majority view that the phrase does restrict deployment, which is why he has promised amendments.

There is, however, no widespread support for sending the Bundeswehr overseas. Oskar Lafontaine, the defeated Social Democratic candidate for chancellor, struck a popular note when he asked sarcastically during the campaign if the first act of the new, "great" Germany would be to send troops to war in the Gulf.

It was better to deploy Willy Brandt for peace than to deploy the Bundeswehr for war, he said. Herr

Lafontaine's views are important, because any amendment to the Basic Law will require a two-thirds majority of the Bundestag, and without the SPD Herr Kohl cannot achieve this. He will also face problems within his own coalition, for the liberal Free Democrats (FDP), are unhappy about sending German troops abroad. It is part of a deep, postwar German worry that sending soldiers overseas has had historic implications.

The SPD and FDP might be prepared to see troops go abroad, but only as part of a peace-keeping force under a UN command and only if

another amendment prohibiting German arms sales abroad was also included. There would be insufficient support for an amendment which would allow German soldiers to join a Gulf war.

Apart from this issue is the question of turning the Basic Law into a constitution. A two-thirds majority is also needed for this and Herr Kohl faces a potential revolt from right-wingers unhappy about losing any possible claim on Polish territory.

The SPD, moreover, believes that the new constitution ought to be put to the population in the form of a referendum.

Liberals able to keep the chancellor in check

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

HELMUT Kohl starts today the delicate task of forming a new coalition government which will be charged with overseeing the restructuring of eastern Germany. After their sweeping joint victory on Sunday, the three coalition parties will have a majority of 134, the biggest in the history of the Bundestag, with which to press through their policies. Their greatest political difficulties, therefore, threaten to be internal rather than external.

This is evident from the fact that Herr Kohl has been emphasising that there is no time pressure now. Before the election he said he hoped to announce the names of his new government before Christmas. Yesterday he was saying that he had all the time in the world; that four years was a long time to work together and that careful preparation was all important.

He spoke during the day with both Count Otto Lambsdorff, leader of the liberal Free Democrats (FDP), and with the Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU) to make preliminary arrangements for coalition negotiations. Significantly he decided to hold discussions first with the CSU, before calling in the FDP, which is certain to want a larger say in policy as well as a higher number of portfolios as its price for joining the government.

Despite Herr Kohl's vote-winning role as the "chancellor of unity", his Christian Democrat Union (CDU) had its worst election result since he became chancellor in 1982. Although the two sister CDU-CSU parties maintained their position as the largest group in the Bundestag, the FDP was the party which gave the coalition its overwhelming majority, picking up votes everywhere in the country and decisively seizing the balance of power.

In Halle, where Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the party's best-known member was born, an FDP candidate even managed to win a direct mandate, the first time the party has achieved this. Although anxious to form a new coalition with Herr Kohl, the FDP has won enough seats to make it possible to bring the Social Democrats (SPD) back to power if it decides to change sides, as it did when it joined the CDU in 1982.

Whether the FDP considers it wise to make a switch depends on how successful Herr Kohl and his new team are in restructuring eastern Germany while protecting the value of the Deutschmark in western pockets.

If things start going badly wrong and Herr Kohl looks like losing the next election in 1994, the FDP is quite capable of switching its allegiance in order to stay in government, particularly if Herr Kohl has not followed the kind of

policies the liberals have been advocating. They have been calling for lower tax levels in the east than in the west, for heavy cuts in defence spending, including axing the European Fighter Aircraft, and for new priorities in public spending. The liberals also want a new law on abortion reform, which will be difficult for the Catholic side of the CDU to accept.

One senior FDP member who will not be available for the cabinet is Helmut Haussmann, economics minister for the past two years, who announced yesterday that after 20 years of political activity he wanted to have more free time.

The SPD is relying on its gloomy economic forecasts coming true as its best hope of recovering from its worst defeat since 1953. It has decided to choose its defeated candidate, Oskar Lafontaine, to take over as party leader, although he will not take his seat in the Bundestag, leaving the task of running the party there to Hans-Jochen Vogel, the former president.

Herr Lafontaine has been encouraged by the fact that younger voters everywhere were choosing the SPD, while the party made modest but real advances all over eastern Germany after its disastrous showing in the Volkskammer elections there last March.

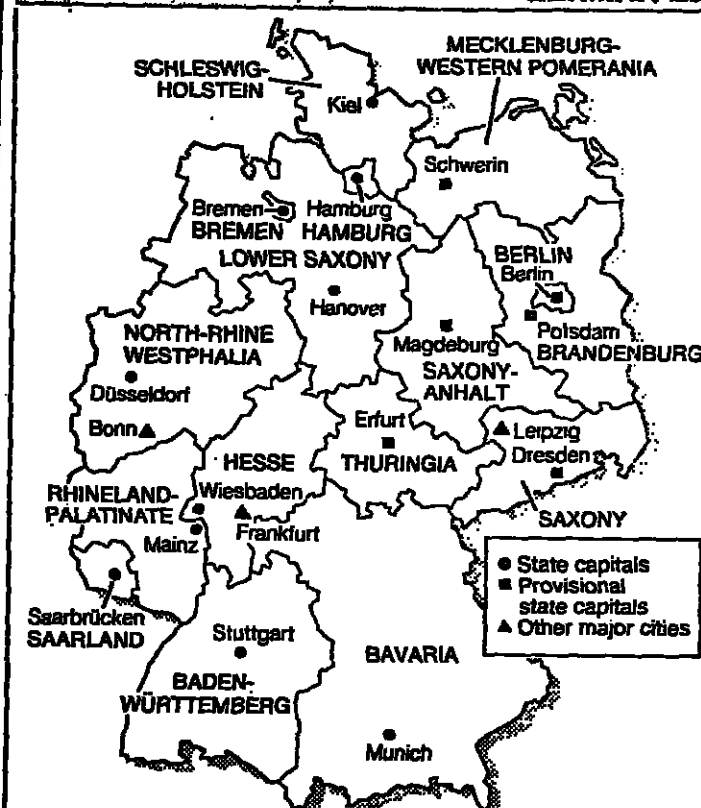
Herr Kohl, he said yesterday, had been elected by the old, nostalgic generation. His heavy defeat was tempered by the fact that he increased his party's vote by over 7 per cent in his home territory of Saarland and was elected directly as a constituency member. In the Rhineland Palatinate, Herr Kohl only held his seat through being picked as the lead CDU candidate on the state list.

Herr Lafontaine has now told his supporters that the SPD has already mapped out the scenario for the future with its predictions of soaring unemployment, social tension and plunging productivity. In four years or less, he insists, the truth of those predictions will sweep the CDU from office.

The SPD will nevertheless find some problems coping with the demands of the communist Party of Democratic Socialists (PDS), whose tiny group is threatening to steal the SPD thunder whenever possible, arguing that the western Socialists just do not understand what the true problems are. Since it has so few seats, the PDS cannot constitute a group and will have to fight a difficult constitutional battle in order to obtain its voting rights in the Bundestag.

Having lost all their seats, the Greens in the west, meanwhile, are having to regroup, probably merging eventually with the movement in the east to fight the next election together.

GERMAN ELECTIONS - 1990



	%	Seats	West Turnout 78.5 (84.3)	East (83.6)
CDU	36.7	239	35.9 (37)	43.4 (42.7)
CDU (DSU in East)	7.1	51	9.7 (8.8)	1.0 (6.6)
FDP	11.0	79	10.4 (9.1)	13.4 (5.6)
Coalition total	54.8	372	55.6 (55.8)	66.8 (n/a)
SPD	33.5	239	35.9 (37)	23.6 (20.8)
PDS	9.3	17	0.3 (-)	9.9 (15.2)
Alliance '90/Greens	1.2	8	4.7 (8.3)	5.9 (-)
Republicans	3.9	-	2.3 (-)	1.3 (-)
Others (16 parties)	2.1	-	-	-
Total	100	636		

National (1987 in West Germany and March, 1990, in East Germany in brackets) Turnout 77.8%

BERLIN

	General election result Turnout 81.1%	City election result Turnout 81%
CDU	39.3	12
FDP	9.3	9
SPD	30.5	30.5
All List/Greens	3.9	5.0
All '90/Greens	0.3	4.0
PDS	9.7	9.2
Reps	2.4	3.1

First election in a united city so no comparison possible. Alternative List only in West Berlin. Alliance '90 only in East Berlin. Seats for Bundestag only.

HOW THE STATES VOTED

Results state by state in % of votes cast (1987 result in West and March 1990 result in East in brackets)	Brandenburg Turnout 74.0 (83.54)	Lower Saxony Turnout 80.7 (85.0)	Saxony Turnout 78.4 (83.6)
	% Seats	% Seats	% Seats
CDU	36.3 (33.6)	44.3 (41.5)	49.5 (43.4)
FDP	9.7 (4.7)	10.3 (8.8)	12.4 (5.7)
SPD	32.9 (29.9)	38.4 (41.4)	18.2 (15.1)
All '90/Gr	6.6 (2.1)	4.5 (7.4)	5.9 (-)
PDS	11.0 (18.3)	0.3 (-)	9.0 (13.6)
Reps	1.7 (-)	1.0 (-)	1.2 (-)
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania Turnout 71.0 (82.87)	Bremen Turnout 76.6 (82.7)	North Rhine-Westphalia Turnout 78.7 (85.4)	Saxony-Anhalt Turnout 72.4 (83.41)
% Seats	% Seats	% Seats	% Seats
CDU	41.2 (36.3)	30.9 (28.9)	40.5 (40.1)
FDP	9.1 (2.0)	12.8 (8.8)	11.0 (8.4)
SPD	26.6 (23.4)	42.5 (46.5)	41.1 (43.2)
All '90/Gr	5.9 (2.0)	3.3 (14.5)	4.3 (7.5)
PDS	14.2 (22.8)	1.1 (-)	0.3 (-)
Reps	1.4 (-)	2.1 (-)	1.3 (-)
Baden-Württemberg Turnout 77.5 (83.1)	Hamburg Turnout 78.3 (83.0)	Rhineland-Palatinate Turnout 81.8 (86.7)	Schleswig-Holstein Turnout 78.6 (84.4)
% Seats	% Seats	% Seats	% Seats
CDU	46.5 (46.7)	36.6 (37.4)	45.6 (45.1)
FDP	12.3 (12.0)	12.0 (9.6)	10.4 (9.1)
SPD	29.1 (28.3)	41.0 (41.2)	38.1 (37.1)
Greens	5.7 (10.0)	5.8 (11.0)	4.0 (7.5)
PDS	0.3 (-)	1.1 (-)	0.2 (-)
Reps	3.2 (-)	1.7 (-)	1.7 (-)
Bavaria Turnout 74.5 (81.7)	Hesse Turnout 81.0 (85.7)	Saarland Turnout 85.1 (87.3)	Thuringia Turnout 76.4 (84.46)
% Seats	% Seats	% Seats	% Seats
CSU	51.9 (55.1)	41.3 (41.3)	38.1 (43.5)
FDP	8.7 (8.1)	10.9 (9.1)	6.0 (8.9)
SPD	26.7 (27.0)	38.0 (38.7)	51.2 (45.5)
Greens	4.6 (7.7)	5.8 (9.4)	2.3 (7.1)
PDS	0.2 (-)	0.4 (-)	0.2 (-)
Reps	5.0 (-)	2.1 (-)	0.9 (-)

Weary voters have the last laugh

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN BERLIN

THE sheep in the corner of the field in Mühlenbeck, north of Berlin were hard at work yesterday devouring a giant picture of the victorious chancellor. Along the main streets of Berlin the boardings of Helmut Kohl, Oskar Lafontaine and the lesser stars in the firmament have already tempted to outside one another.

Hopes that it might all be over more quickly this time were raised by a rather too believable comedy sketch broadcast on the ARD network in October. A young woman with the petrified hairstyle and ghastly blouse of the

typical German newsreader announced that the Social Democrats were now so far behind the CDU that they were to give up campaigning to save the pollution caused by jetting around in private aircraft. The millions of marks saved in campaign funds would be invested in job creation in the stricken east, she said.

Within minutes the station switchboard was jammed with calls applauding the announcement. So great was the enthusiasm for ending campaigning six weeks before the election (some even

said they would now consider voting for Herr Lafontaine after all) that the SPD had to hire a slot later the same evening to announce it was still in the fight.

Laughs? We had a few, but then again, not that many. Quips are still not part of the armoury of a German politician, although Herr Lafontaine, the vanquished SPD challenger, daringly remarked that Herr Kohl's evasive pronouncements on the "to be or not to be" question of tax increases resembled the performances of the pop duo Milli Vanilli - "he just keeps on moving his lips, but no intelligible sound comes out". Against the verbal grey of the rest of the campaign, it was treated as an unexcelled example of Wildean derring.

Herr Kohl is not one of nature's wits, but relied instead on his habit of putting his large foot in his even larger mouth. The party officials who stewarded him from event to event called their task "Helmut-sitting" and admitted that their Herr Bundeskanzler on an unguarded day resembled an "elephant in a porcelain shop". He propped neatly into a pile of china in his speech before the first all-German sitting of the Bundestag in October. Rising to begin a new chapter in German parliamentary history with the words "Meine Damen und Herren", he addressed the sitting MPs as "My D-Mark and Gentlemen."

At least half of the 2 per cent vote for East German communist Gregor Gysi must have come from people relieved to see a candidate with a consistent sense of humour. Ritually reviled by the CDU, hated by the SPD as a splitter of the left vote, and spurned by the citizens' groups of the east as the successor to the old hardliners, Herr Gysi has offered to buy a drink for the first politician voluntarily to sit next to him when parliament convenes. And he described his party's vote yesterday as "a victory of quality over quantity".

Greens' fortunes, page 16

Greens contemplate four years in the wilderness

By IAN MURRAY

SHATTERED Green party members of the Bundestag yesterday were still unable to believe that none of them had been re-elected in the first all-German election. "It still has not properly percolated through into my brain," Uwe Günther said.

After eight years in parliament the Greens had begun to think they had become a permanent part of the political scene. The fact that they failed to clear the 5 per cent hurdle in order to qualify for any seats means they will now be out by Christmas, their Bonn offices handed over to communists and citizens' rights members from what was East Germany.

The movement has realised, however, that it will have to fight to survive in the political arena and a special conference is now to be called next February to try to thrust out a programme which will hold its supporters together, ready to try to win its way back into parliament.

For the present, the management committee is to stay in office, with nobody offering to take the blame for the Greens taking only 2.9 per cent of the vote, despite the fact that public



Out of office: Christian Strohele, a Greens spokesman, at the Bonn HQ the party must soon leave

awareness of environmental problems has never been higher. The dangerous levels of pollution in eastern Germany are one of the most serious problems facing the new government.

According to Renate Dams, the Greens' leading spokes-

woman, the blame lies not with the movement's politicians but with the political developments connected with German unity. Because of a "Deutschland euphoria", she said, the public was just not interested in environmental issues.

The Greens also suffered because the main parties, particularly the Social Democrats (SPD), embraced the cause of environmentalism. With the SPD campaigning for the ecology and the government coalition promising to help protect nature, popular

Chancellor must hold united nation together

By ANNE McELVOY

WHEN Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, first beheld the satisfying sight of his convincing win over the Social Democrats on Sunday night, one of his first comments was that he was pleased that the party had done almost equally well in both parts of the country, the federal republic and the former German Democratic Republic (GDR).

This was a give-away line for a politician who after unity in October chided his aides repeatedly for referring to "the former GDR" and single-handedly christened the east: "The five new federal states".

Despite his insistence on the symbolism of oneness, Herr Kohl knows that his main task now is holding together the two newly welded souls in the German breast, while economic considerations dictated that east and west will be separated by a wall of prosperity for years to come. Unemployment and industrial unrest in the east have been skillfully contained by his Christian Democrats in the run-up to the election. The management of unemployment by the introduction of compulsory part-time working in many factories and the "graduate vote" ensured the party's success.

Herr Kohl's problems will begin in earnest in January, when thousands of families face the financial hanger of their first Deutschmark Christmas coupled with mass redundancies as factories lay off workers as part of a sweeping "trim to survive" strategy.

The railway strike which briefly paralysed the eastern network in the run-up to the election is unlikely to be the only major industrial action in the new year. The unions, traditionally the puppets of the regime, are emerging with their heads held high in the east once again and relishing the honest fight on their hands.

Wages in the public sector in the east are rarely even half of that earned by a worker doing the same job in the west. Until now Bonn has justified the discrepancy by pointing to the vestiges of the communists' economic mess, and the gentle reminder that east Germans are substantially better off than their neighbours in Eastern Europe.

But the election is a powerful psychological break with the past for the population in the east. They are already showing signs of impatience with western politicians who too frequently exploit the 40 years of dictatorship as a reason for inequalities. Herr Kohl is now their chancellor, too, by their decree and resistance is growing to being treated as "second class Germans".

The new legislative period will discover those difficulties and differences which were swept under the carpet of unity earlier in the year. The underground networks of the Stasi secret police did not cease to function with unity. It would be a statistical miracle if some of the newly elected eastern MPs were not sooner or later unveiled as former conspirators. Few would be prepared to bet that there will not be a clutch of political and economic scandals ahead of Herr Kohl.

East and West Germany now have different abortion laws for a transitional period of two years with a raging row ahead. Eastern politicians elected to the Bundestag, many in Chancellor Kohl's own party, are already under pressure from their constituents to campaign against the forfeit of abortion on demand in early pregnancy.

Public opinion in the east is more liberal than the west on this and similar issues, and the CDU will have to find ways of juggling its bedrock support among the socially conservative in the west and that in the east, based rather on a perception of the party as the radical bringer of free market prosperity than the preserving force of traditional values.

● However's fate: President Gorbachev will decide on whether to hand over Erich Honecker, the former east German leader, to the Berlin justice authorities to stand trial on manslaughter charges. The Soviet embassy's Berlin office said yesterday. A statement said that it involved "serious questions" but Moscow did not intend to stand in the way of German justice.

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Russia takes radical step to private land ownership

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

LEGISLATORS of the Russian Federation last night overcame bitter opposition from conservatives to cast an historic vote in favour of the principle of private ownership of land, albeit subject to draconian restrictions.

In a great tactical victory for Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, and his radical supporters, a resolution approving private holdings was hedged about with tight conditions to mollify hardliners and secure a 602-369 vote in its favour.

The main condition, designed to meet ideological objections and fears that property will be concentrated in criminal or foreign hands, is that land may only be bought from, and sold back to, the locally elected authorities.

Land may not be sold for 10 years after its acquisition, according to another provision in the resolution that was adopted after heated debate in the Russian legislature.

Conservative deputies from rural areas, where collective farm chairmen wield enormous influence, argued persistently that private land

holdings were immoral, unpopular and too important a change to be introduced without a referendum.

Although the idea of taking land on long lease and bequeathing it to one's children has been accepted for the Soviet Union as a whole, outright ownership of land marks a historic break with communist principles brutally enforced during the collectivisation of land in the 1930s.

President Gorbachev has recently made it clear that he objects on ideological grounds to absolute ownership of land.

Radical supporters of private property predicted that the restrictions on ownership would in practice fall by the wayside over the next few years. "In the circumstances, this was a major achievement," said Yevgeni Kim, a deputy from the Soviet Far East who is one of the leading advocates of rapid political change.

The debate was skillfully chaired by Mr Yeltsin, who had to use great tactical skill to avoid acrimony between radicals and conservatives getting out of hand. At one point he rebuked a radical who proposed holding a referendum not on land ownership but on confiscating all the Communist Party's property.

Other parts of the resolution call for big investment in agriculture to improve what is widely agreed to be the wretched economic state of many rural areas of the Russian Federation.

● TOKYO: Japan announced yesterday that it will send transport experts to Moscow next month to help the Soviet Union make its outmoded distribution and warehousing system more efficient (see page 16).

Tokyo, whose relations with Moscow are cool because of a long-running territorial dispute over the Kurile islands, blames the empty shelves in Soviet food shops on poor distribution rather than scarce supplies. Taiso Watanabe, Japan's foreign ministry spokesman, said: "When the wheat harvest is the best in recent years, why do people starve? There is no easy answer."

Discipline first, page 16

Warnings voiced in Moscow

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

GRAVE warnings about the Soviet Union's explosive social climate were issued by conservatives as well as radicals when both groups held meetings here at the weekend to rally their forces for an intensifying political struggle.

At a gathering of the hardline parliamentary group Soyuz, it threatened to introduce a motion of no-confidence in President Gorbachev, and its founder, Colonel Viktor Alksnis, proposed a strict state of emergency.

The other meeting was the first congress of the Democratic Party of Russia, founded six months ago. It was intended to launch an uncompromising struggle against the Communists in factories, ministries and the armed forces, as well as at the hustings.

In a statement it issued a warning about the danger of violence caused by rising political and social tensions. "The resort to force in current conditions will lead to bloody events on an enormous scale, possibly even worldwide catastrophe," it said.

At the Soyuz meeting, Colonel Alksnis spelt out his proposals for a state of emergency, saying that parliament at all levels should be dissolved and the Congress of People's Deputies, the supreme legislature which is due to convene on December 17, should as its final act appoint a committee of national salvation with wide powers.

Colonel Alksnis said of President Gorbachev: "I highly respect his quality and his honour... but his trouble is that he is a romantic democrat, and now that the country is on the brink of national catastrophe he does not suit this cruel period."

However, the Soyuz movement is expected to wait until the last moment before announcing whether it will in fact introduce a no-confidence motion.



Uniform appearance: Soviet riot police, seen here wearing new uniform, line up to confront demonstrators in Kiev. The protesters were complaining about food rationing, which has been imposed in Kiev and elsewhere

Treaty blow to Baltic hopes

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

REPUBLICS of the Soviet Union which do not sign the new Treaty of Union will be regarded as subject to the old treaty and not as having seceded.

This clarification, given yesterday by Rifaat Nishanov, chairman of the parliament's Council of Nationalities, appears to dash the hopes of the Baltic republics and Georgia that their refusal to sign would be tantamount to leaving the union.

Mr Nishanov was presenting the draft union treaty to the Soviet parliament, the first time the document has been given a public airing since it was published 10 days ago. President Gorbachev, who sees the new treaty as crucial to holding the Soviet Union together, was present.

The parliaments of the Baltic republics, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, have voted for independence from the Soviet Union and the present Georgian government was elected on a platform of full independence.

The ruling that these republics will remain subject to the old treaty unless they sign the

new one means that they will be expected to follow the ponderous procedures laid down in the law on secession. A Baltic deputy, Mikhail Bronshteyn, objected in vain that as the republics had not signed the original treaty of 1922, they could not be held to its provisions.

The draft union treaty makes no mention of secession. It stipulates only that membership of the union is voluntary and that members can vote to expel a member which violates the terms of the treaty. Challenged to say how a republic could secede, Mr Nishanov said that any break-up of the union could only be a "step backward".

He pointed out that republics could not only delegate more powers to the centre by special negotiation, but could also be granted more powers by the centre. This might offer the would-be independent republics a small loophole.

Another question preoccupied parliamentary deputies. Why had the draft treaty replaced the word "socialist" with the word "sovereign" in the title of the USSR? This is

likely to arouse intense debate at the full Soviet parliament, the Congress of People's Deputies, which opens in two weeks' time.

Deputies considered their own role in the new structure, which provides for an elected lower chamber, as at present, but an upper chamber made up of nominees from the republics and ethnic minorities. The Chamber of Nationalities questioned whether nomination was more democratic than direct election.

The Chamber of the Union members were also unhappy, fearing that the proposed new role of the Council of the Federation, meant that it would take over many of the functions of parliament. At present, the council, consisting of the presidents, prime ministers and communist party leaders of the 15 republics, has a purely advisory role.

According to Mr Nishanov, a distinction will be drawn between autonomous republics, which will be treated like full republics, able to sign the treaty themselves, and the others who will be treated as subject, as at present, to the

union republic. This means that the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh will have to come to an agreement with the republic of Azerbaijan. South Ossetia will have to negotiate with Georgia.

As these regions are already at loggerheads with their republics, this would be a recipe for even more civil turmoil.

The only republic which contains smaller autonomous republics is the Russian Federation, and the distinction drawn yesterday can be interpreted as an attempt to exert pressure on the Russian Federation to sign the treaty in its present form. Boris Yeltsin, the Russian leader, has argued for a looser form of union in which the republics are virtual sovereign states in their own right.

The autonomous areas, populated by and large by ethnic minorities, have traditionally regarded the central Soviet authorities as providing protection against the majority. Their fears have been used in turn to further the interests of the centre against individual republics.

Poverty puts Poland under siege

FROM ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

THE first snows have fallen on Eastern Europe. In Warsaw's Eastern railway station, where hundreds of Romanian and Bulgarian refugees spend the night - their day is occupied with begging - the swaddled mothers heat up the billycans for supper and spread blankets on the floor.

Occasionally, as passengers enter for late-night trains, a gust of snow sprinkles the sleeping children.

Doctors say that 80 per cent of the refugee children are suffering from contagious diseases but the parents refuse hospital treatment, fearing that this is the first move towards expulsion and a forced return to an even colder winter in the Balkans.

There are 50,000 Romanian refugees in Poland, several thousand Bulgarians, and, it is feared, within months there could be thousands upon thousands of Belorussians and Ukrainians (or ethnic Poles from those republics) crossing the Bug river and the poorly patrolled Soviet-Polish frontier.

The Soviet invasion expected in 1980 when Solidarity burst into action is in 1990 becoming a reality: not the rumbling of tanks but the westward march of poverty and famine.

For its eastern neighbours, Poland is now a relatively prosperous destination. There are no food shortages, the cars and buses still run, the flats are heated. Yet the Poles see it differently. There are perhaps 45,000 people waiting for a visa to America. Others are waiting for the Germans to keep their promise to ease visa restrictions. Then the young Poles will make their escape from the would-be capitalism at home to the real thing.

Eastern Europe is heading for deep recession and economic misery as bad as anything experienced since the winter of 1945. The Gulf confrontation in particular is putting the squeeze on the East European economies. The Hungarian finance minister, Dr Ferenc Rabar, estimates that every \$1 rise in oil

prices adds \$45 million (£22 million) to the Hungarian fuel bill. At the same time the Soviet Union is cutting back its deliveries to all East European countries. From January 1 all trade with the Soviet Union will be denominated in dollars - the era of swapping Bulgarian strawberry jam or suspect Czech shoes for gas and oil is over.

Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia have at least managed to scrape together some reserves over the past year and have enough cash to pay for essential fuel supplies. But they are finding that the Soviet Union is no longer interested in their engineering products, their traditional exports, and that contracts with the former East Germany are not being renewed. The result - factory closures throughout the region.

Bulgaria presents probably the saddest picture. For years it thought of itself as the market garden of socialism, incomparably better off than Ceausescu's Romania. Now

the standard of living has slipped dramatically and has reached an almost Romanian nadir. Food shops are open only a few hours a day. Bread is difficult to get and there are shortages of many other staples.

Even in Sofia electricity is cut off every three hours for an hour or so. The blackouts are growing more frequent, partly because of the closing of two reactors in Bulgaria's only nuclear power station at Kozloduy.

The strains that this economic winter is putting on young democratic institutions can be seen throughout the region. Social envy, the accumulated anger of the workers, this is the new revolutionary passion. Yesterday in the middle of Warsaw there was an impatient, disorderly queue of women fighting to buy fur coats for more than £2,000 a piece. The expression on the faces of the passers-by, full of fury and disgust, was an eloquent warning of the trouble ahead.

Ershad lifts press controls

Dhaka - President Ershad of Bangladesh yesterday lifted press censorship imposed under a state of emergency a week ago, as the country braced itself for an indefinite strike from today.

Earlier, the president had urged security forces to deal harshly with demonstrators. The opposition parties have urged all workers to strike for eight hours a day from today. They want President Ershad to resign and hand over to an interim government before free elections can be held. (Reuters)

Rebels close in

Mogadishu - United Somali Congress rebels were only 30 miles northeast of the capital, Mogadishu, according to a correspondent who spent four days in the rebel zone. Advance units were only two hours away by road. In the capital, several people have been killed in four days of clashes between rival clans, witnesses said. (AFP, Reuters)

Aid for China

Peking - Italy and Spain will be the first EC countries to renew aid and loans to China, suspended after the Tiananmen Square killings. The China Daily said the move followed a visit to the two countries by a high-level delegation in November, the first since the partial lifting of community sanctions last month. (AFP)

3,000 homeless

Moscow - Three thousand people have been left homeless by an earthquake in Kirghizia in Soviet Central Asia, but no lives were lost. Tass said the earthquake registered 6.5 on the 12-point Mercalli scale. Its epicentre was near Uzen in the west of the republic. Tents and basic essentials had been sent to the area. (AFP)

Bhopal protest

Bhopal - About 5,000 survivors of the 1984 gas leak that killed about 1,750 people demonstrated outside the Union Carbide pesticides factory here. They chanted slogans and burnt effigies to mark the sixth anniversary of the industrial disaster. (AFP)

MADRID NOTEBOOK by Juan Carlos Gumucio

Sins of the rich spice Spain's cafe gossip

MADRID'S stuffy political establishment may have survived its first serious battle with the Roman Catholic Church, but the war is far from over. The latest pastime in Madrid's cafes is guessing who the bishops were aiming at when they fired salvoes against abuse of power and overall "moral degradation".

There is consensus that the bishops were thinking quite a lot about Señor Alfonso Guerra lately. The deputy prime minister is married and his wife lives in Seville, but he lives with an attractive artist and their young daughter in Madrid. His younger brother, Juan, is thought to have amassed a small fortune overnight thanks to his good connections with the ruling Socialist Party and the still unexplained use of a rent-free government office.

Perhaps a more difficult task in the bar talk of Madrid is trying to identify the one main target of the bishops' observation that Socialists in Spain, far from narrowing the economic gap, have helped to promote a harmful admiration for luxury and hedonism. Some interpre-

ters of the Church's criticism name Isabel Freysler, the Manila-born former wife of the singer, Julio Iglesias, who now in her third marriage is wedded to Miguel Boyer, a former Socialist cabinet minister and prominent banker. Parties at their 44-room mansion never fail to make big headlines, but it is hard to compete with the attention drawn by other Socialist-favoured socialites or even their pets.

The Baroness von Thyssen, the former Miss Spain, Carmen Cervera, is fighting a legal battle involving millions of pesetas against someone who was bitten by her lapdog. Another admired name among get-rich-quick Spaniards is that of Mario Conde, the Galician banker whose spectacular rise to riches is the model for business students.

Gossip specialists say there is little doubt that the bishops were referring to the socially accepted and much publicised romance of Alberto Cortina and beautiful Marta Chávarri. Señor Cortina is perhaps better known for his now shattered marriage to Alicia Koplowitz, one of the richest women in Europe.

For a man under fire, Felipe González, the prime minister, risks discovering that he might have chosen the wrong weapons. Revelations about his secret passion for hunting may shoot down the votes of "Green" Spaniards and animal lovers.

According to Madrid's *Tribuna* magazine, Señor González is a closet hunter who has been spotted in forest reserves in Los Montes de Toledo, in spite of complicated

arrangements to keep his hobby a state secret. Reportedly, he is a helicopter-borne stalker who never hunts with friends. Accompanied only by one bodyguard and a guide, Señor González apparently shoots like a political propagandist - with broadsides and scattershot. The magazine quoted a resident of the area as saying that one of the prime minister's recent trophies included a deer which was "pretty small".

The people of the southern village of Cieza are dressed in mourning this week after a typically Spanish tragedy in which three young would-be toreros were gunned down by the light of the full moon. The killings, in a pasture where fighting bulls were grazing, remain a mystery, but a possible cause was mentioned in whispers at the village cemetery. The *novilleros* could have violated an ancient code.

Ambitious *novilleros* have always been tempted to risk death by moonlight to practise their art in secret with full-grown fighting bulls, bred and pampered for the big-time maestros. The practice is strictly forbidden because, once a bull has been caped, it is considered too wise and dangerous for a bullfight.



arrangements to keep his hobby a state secret. Reportedly, he is a helicopter-borne stalker who never

Curfews as violence in townships escalates

FROM REUTER IN THOKOZA, SOUTH AFRICA

AT LEAST 64 people have been killed in a wave of knife and gun battles for political supremacy in South African black townships.

Police said yesterday that 52 bodies had been found in Thokoza, a township 15 miles east of Johannesburg.

"We found 14 bodies between last night and this morning. By the afternoon, 38 more bodies had been picked up, making it 52 in Thokoza alone," a police spokesman, Ida van Zee, said yesterday. Eight other bodies were found in Tembisa and four in Katlehong townships, also east of Johannesburg, since the fighting started on Sunday afternoon. The law and order minister, Adriaan Vlok, imposed a curfew yesterday on Katlehong, Thokoza, Vosloorus and Bekkersdal townships.

"There is no place in South Africa for violence or inflammatory talk. Violence can only retard the evolution of the new South Africa for which all peace-loving citizens are striving," Mr Vlok said. Military reinforcements were being called in to help the police to restore order, he said. "Now is the time for all parties involved to sit down and talk their differences and to prevent further loss of life during the approaching festive season."

All but one of the dead were blacks who had been shot and stabbed. A white security guard was shot, stabbed and set on fire in Katlehong.

In one incident a reporter witnessed a man being attacked with cane-cutting knives before being finished off with an automatic rifle by a group of assailants. Scores of other bodies lay scattered in Nxala street, one of the township's main streets. Three bodies, one decapitated, lay on the street leading to Thokoza's Phola Park squatter camp.

At the corner of one of the streets young and middle-aged men were making petrol bombs. "We are going to burn down the hostel (for migrant workers). It is the breeding ground for this slaughter," one of the youths said.

Thokoza residents sought refuge at the local hospital where more than 65 people had been admitted with gun and knife wounds. Others have fled to nearby open ground to escape fighting.

"We have nowhere to go. Although it is raining, it is better to be in an open veld so as to see the approaching attackers," one resident said.

More than 900 people have been killed in political factional fighting which has slowed negotiations on political reform between the white government and Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC).

The fighting has been mainly between township residents loyal to the ANC and migrant workers from Natal province sympathetic to the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party of Mangosuthu Buthezi, Mr Mandela's main political rival.

Thokoza, Katlehong and

Tembisa have been some of the Johannesburg townships hit by the violence since mid-August.

The latest fierce fighting began in Thokoza on Sunday afternoon when migrant hostel dwellers attacked residents of Phola Park squatter camp. Thokoza residents teamed up with the squatters to retaliate.

Opposing groups armed with AK 47 automatic rifles, hand grenades, petrol bombs, cane knives and clubs, fought running battles throughout Sunday night and yesterday morning.

The rival factions burned down shacks and attacked houses in the townships and a three-way running battle ensued between the police, Zulu migrant workers and township residents.

Hostel dwellers with white headbands marched past an army truck, but the soldiers and police in it did not disarm the men.

Mr Mandela has blamed the police for fanning the violence and siding with Inkatha during the fighting.



Township tragedy: a woman in Thokoza weeping yesterday as police loaded the body of a man on to their armoured vehicle after overnight violence between rival blacks

Delhi acts with speed to curb growing unrest

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

IN THREE weeks of power, India's minority government has put the strategic oil-rich state of Assam under direct rule, arrested six top Sikh leaders in Punjab, and secretly assembled plans for a political initiative in Kashmir. This week it is seeking a peace deal with Hindu extremists.

The government is moving with almost frantic speed to tackle terrorism and the breakdown of law and order caused by caste and religious disputes. Its plans include tougher security in Punjab, possibly involving a deployment of troops to fight terrorists killing an unprecedented 20 to 30 people a day.

A significant peace bid in Kashmir is also being considered. The government is prepared to release prominent leaders held under national security laws and may hold out the prospect of substantial self-government.

Farooq Abdullah, the discredited former chief minister of the state of Jammu and Kashmir and head of the National Conference, is closely involved in an examination of political options, much to the dismay of many Kashmiris. His administration, widely regarded as corrupt, saw the first eruption of widespread armed revolt

among the traditionally docile Kashmiris. Mr Abdullah has been consulting Rajiv Gandhi, leader of the Congress (I) party, over possible political moves in the state.

Chandra Shekhar, the prime minister, and Mian Nawaz Sharif, his new Pakistani counterpart, agreed when they met for the first time at a regional summit in the Maldives last month to stay in frequent telephone contact to avoid war over Kashmir. With war no longer likely, Delhi is ready to open peace talks with Kashmiri leaders.

There are also cautious hopes of a solution to a Hindu-Muslim dispute over a holy site in the Uttar Pradesh city of Ayodhya. The Hindu extremists who brought down the previous government are again planning to storm the Babri Masjid, a 16th-century mosque, on Thursday.

The Chandra Shekhar government hopes to avoid another bloody conflict in Ayodhya and Mr Gandhi, whose party is propping up Mr Chandra Shekhar's Janata Dal (S) grouping in parliament, has proposed a formula in which Hindus would be able to build a temple next to the mosque. Mr Gandhi believes his plan would satisfy most Hindus and Muslims.

French see rebel leader in Chad

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

AS CALM returned to the streets of Ndjamena yesterday, the youthful commander of the rebel troops that swept into the Chad capital last weekend was savouring his victory.

Idriss Deby has already received the French ambassador and a special government envoy dispatched from Paris to assess the new situation.

The French have said there is no evidence of direct Libyan involvement. But Mr Deby seems to have rejected the French view of what should happen now - a period of transition under the interim leadership of the Chad parliament. "We fought against the existing political system and its institutions," he told journalists. "The old guard cannot be involved in what happens now."

It has been confirmed that Chad's former president, Hissene Habré, previously reported dead, is safe in neighbouring Cameroon.

● Flying out: The French foreign ministry said yesterday that another evacuation flight was to take about a hundred more of its citizens out of Chad. Some 1,600 people have already left.

Bush will keep to Argentina visit

FROM REUTER IN BRASILIA

PRESIDENT Bush, at the start of a week's goodwill visit to Latin America, yesterday called on all Western hemisphere nations to work together for democracy and prosperity.

Mr Bush was greeted in Brazil by President Collor de Mello at the Planalto palace. After the welcoming formalities, the two leaders had private talks.

The opening of his five-nation tour was marred by concern over events in Argentina, where a military insurrection in Buenos Aires, the capital, prompted President Menem to declare a state of siege just two days before Mr Bush's planned arrival.

Mr Bush told Senhor de Mello that he had "no thoughts of changing my plans. I have great confidence in the security there". One American official who requested anonymity said: "It looks like an inter-military squabble."

In an address to the Brazilian Congress, Mr Bush praised

Senhor de Mello's leadership and called on all Latin American countries to continue to work to strengthen democracy and economic freedom in the hemisphere.

"To fulfil the new world's destiny, all of the Americas and the Caribbean must embark on a venture for the coming century - to create the first fully democratic hemisphere in the history of mankind, the first hemisphere devoted to the democratic ideal, to unleash the power of free peoples, free elections and free markets," he said.

With Mr Bush was his daughter, Dorothy LeBlond, who agreed to deputise for her mother after the First Lady was laid low by a minor sinus infection. The president was also accompanied by a group of economic advisers, including Nicholas Brady, his treasury secretary, and Carla Hills, the US trade representative.

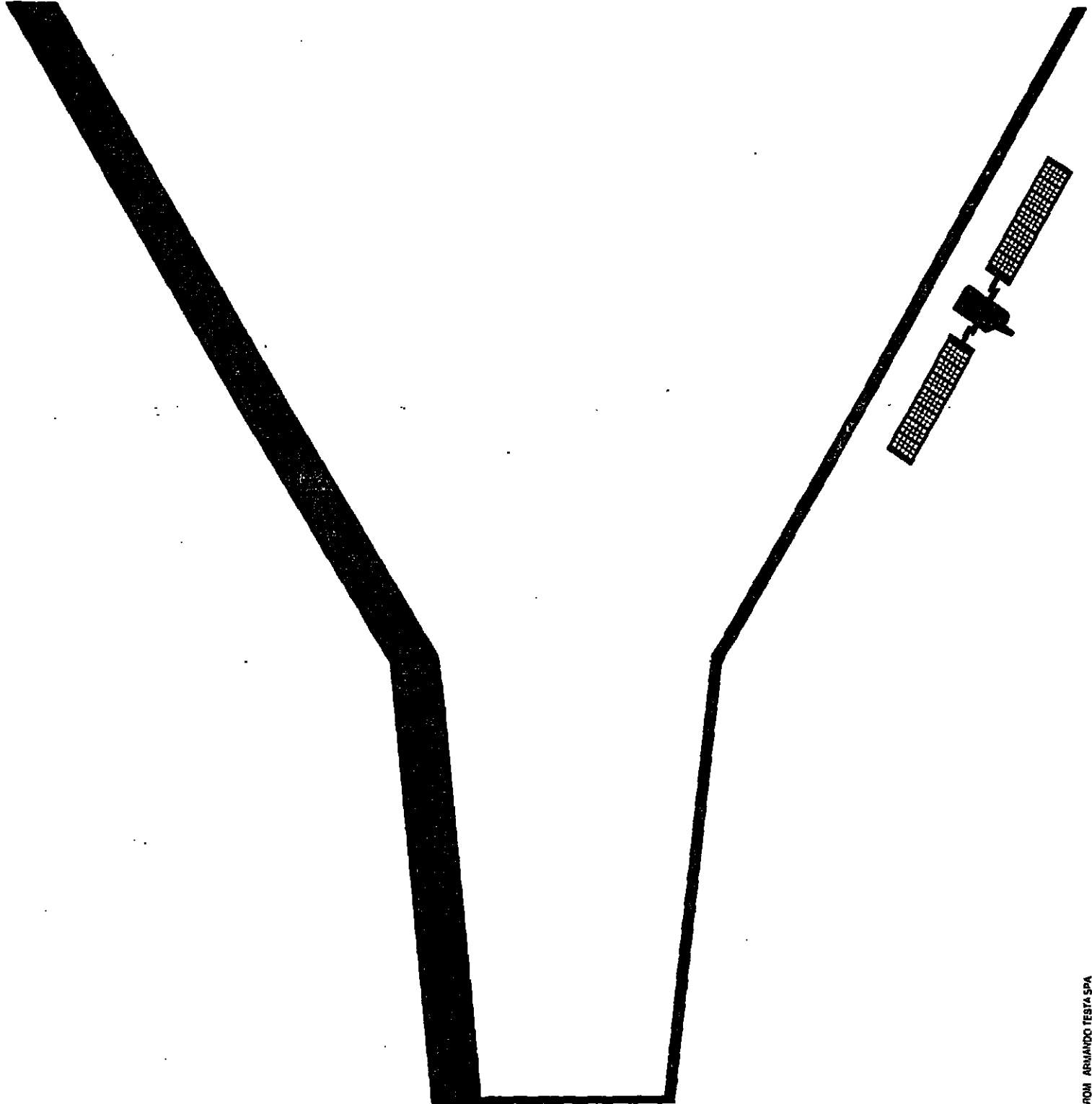
Economically, Brazil is the most important country on the 12,000-mile tour, which is also to include Uruguay, Chile and Venezuela. Brazil has the tenth biggest economy in the world and is America's third largest trading partner in the Americas, after Canada and Mexico.

Brazilian officials see the American leader's visit as a chance to try to enlist his help in dealing with the country's crushing foreign debt, which totals \$119 billion (£61 billion). Mr Bush, in turn, hopes that the visit will show the region that he is not subordinating its concerns to the Gulf confrontation and the sweeping changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.



Collor de Mello: leader of state with huge debts

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A foul deed they will rue

Some see the destruction of Mrs Thatcher by her own party in mystical terms, like a passage from Sir James Frazer's *The Golden Bough*. According to this version, Tory MPs did not know individually what they were doing, but were compelled by a Jungian "collective unconscious" to do the dreadful deed out of a primeval instinct of self-preservation. Having slaughtered their queen they then chose her favourite son as chieftain, and not the matricide who had conspired with older, jealous members of the tribe to plant the first dagger.

If that is so, as it may be, it is not the first time in history that a "collective unconscious" has made an appalling mistake, to be deeply regretted by the zombies acting under its spell when they wake to reality.

Tory MPs, and the cabinet, were dupes of a largely anti-Thatcher press, which blazed the recent opinion poll findings, and particularly of the BBC and ITV, where the prevailing ethos has long been against her. Mr Peter Kellner, a Labour supporter, wrote in *The Independent* last Friday: "the use of polls in Mrs Thatcher's downfall should cause some concern. Time may show that Tory MPs misread the evidence and that, far from sacking a vote-loser, they have abandoned a vote-winner".

That is undoubtedly true. Mrs Thatcher scored her three great victories coming from far behind in the polls and finishing well ahead of her party in popularity, and high above all comers in the polling booths. An ascending curve had already started, and the same would have happened in the next election, when she would have faced a weak Mr Kinnock and an unconvincing Labour party. Now the outlook for the Tories is less bright.

Mr Major has admirable and attractive qualities, with the making of a fine prime minister. But, as Mr Kellner remarks, the Tories will possibly do worse at the next election "because Mrs Thatcher has proven campaign skills that Mr Major has yet to demonstrate". So far, the shock of Mrs Thatcher's shabby deposition has not fully percolated into voters' minds. When it does, there could be a strong backlash against the party responsible for removing the most innovative and successful prime minister since 1832 while in full vigour.

Mrs Thatcher restored national pride by raising Britain's punching power, in world councils, considerably above its economic weight. Travellers abroad accustomed to a growing contempt for Britain found themselves envied for having so towering a leader. Nowhere was this more true than in America. There the prevailing mood not only grew more appreciative of Britain as America's most reliable ally but depended on Mrs Thatcher to stiffen presiden-

tial resolve when tackling Moscow over nuclear arms and other issues and in crises like Kuwait.

Saddam Hussein may still not get away with it, but his chances will rise as President Bush, no longer bolstered by Mrs Thatcher, starts to look wobbly. Without her, Britain may soon descend to the rank of a minor power such as the Benelux countries, France or Italy. There will be no one of sufficient stature to cope with Germany's overbearing economic triumphalism. At home the will to drive Britain into a brighter economic future will be gone.

No one but Mrs Thatcher could have reformed the trade unions, often pushing employment ministers into advances that frightened them and which they tried to stop or delay. Mrs Thatcher forced through the great privatisations. Her own party, swallowing Harold Macmillan's "selling the family silver" theme, thought this was impossible. Now, though, the country sees she was right in halting the endless subsidies to inefficient nationalised industries and selling them for the benefit of taxpayers and shareholders. Without Mrs Thatcher, who dare privatise coal or British Rail?

Labour prates of elevating the status of women. Her government arranged for women to cease being chattels of the husband and to be taxed separately. Labour never did. Against determined opposition, she drastically cut the number of civil servants, and would have cut more. She overcame the doubters' resistance to council house sales and spread home ownership to undreamed-of heights. The list of reforms she made in all fields - such as cutting the punitive top rates of income tax and encouraging new and leaner businesses - is immense. But the catalogue of what she still intended to do is unfinished. Without her vision and energy, it is likely to remain so for 20 years.

Mrs Thatcher made politics exciting by introducing new challenges and bringing Britain back to a belief in itself. But the forward march and the dramatic changes were too much for many, who clung to the genteel decline syndrome which involved no harsh effort, just a quiet, civilised consensus and an amiable drift downward. Already hints emanate from the new government that somehow she got it wrong, that the community charge (immeasurably fairer than the rates) must be abolished, that British interests in Europe are best defended by not defending them, and so on.

Mrs Thatcher will not stay silent if the tenets of Thatcherism are dismantled. Call it back-seat driving or what you like, but her voice will be heard loud and clear, and echoed by millions enthusiastic for her radical revolution. If the voice has to be critical, it will not be bitter or unsupportive of Mr Major. But the Tories will suffer.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

Excellent, the latest *VAT Notes*. A thundering good read from start to finish, and as spiritually uplifting as anything you could shake a censor at. Those stymied for an original Yuletide gift for literary relatives would do well to consider *Leaflet No. 809696* *Do8237248 VAT/DO/90*: not only is it a handy one-thousandth the length of Ackroyd's *Duckens*, its form corners make it ideal for removing any shards of turkey lust maddeningly lurking between the Boxing Day molar. And best of all, it's free - provided that you have kept up your subscription to the Customs & Excise Book Club by sending them 15% of your income every quarter.

I have had a good fortune to be a member since 1973, and have therefore received hundreds of these exegetical supplements to *The Book of VAT*. I have not, of course, been permitted to see the Book itself, for it is kept, thrice locked and scotchy-girt, in that remote forest clearing to which Brigham Excise and his followers carried it after the death of Joseph Customs (*sons of orio* of the Church of Latter-day Taxmen), but I have been able to glean some notion of the holy text from these regular amendments. That it must be comprehensive of all that ever was since the beginning of the world is irrefutable: if the torrent of regulatory addenda can take account of such diverse minutiae as the importation of non-ferrous prostheses for ornamental (excluding clockwork) wallabies, and the exact status of purgative gherkins for ritual gatherings at which not fewer than nine of those present are full-time members of the armed forces, then it is obvious that the Book itself misses nothing. Its eye is on 115% of the sparrow.

Are the leaflets useful? It is a question as irrelevant as it is improper. They are no more or less useful than the Book of Revelations. They are not there to be useful, but to awe and mystify. They are put together by theologians concerned not merely with the number of angels able to dance on the head of a pin, but with whether the dance may be construed as educational within the meaning

of the Act, enabling the pin to be zero-rated, or whether it is an entertainment, rendering the pin liable to an impost of 15%.

In this latest leaflet, for example, we read that "cigarette cards, which were formerly zero-rated, have been standard-rated since 1 September 1990". This is a world which had fully believed that cigarette cards had not been issued since Wally Hammond was No 39 in a series and Mickey Rooney was even shorter than he subsequently became. Nor was that the only window opened upon a world of which, without *VAT Notes*, we should know nothing: how many of you, for instance, realised that only the transport of passengers in a ship carrying not fewer than 12 persons was zero-rated? Does it not give a new poignancy to the cry of "Any more for the Skyline?" to appreciate that, should he only to go round the bay with only 11 on board, the hapless skipper could well find himself clapped in Her Majesty's irons the moment his returning wellie touched the shingle?

Useful to skippers? You would have to ask a skipper, and stand out of the way. As with all holy writ, the stuff is patently there to make his life more complicated, in the hope that wrestling with its implications will be good for his soul. That is why I approach Verse 9 of the latest leaflet with due caution: there is a possibility that it is applicable to, among other tradesmen, purveyors of light prose to the carriage trade, but though one hand offers hope, the other offers penalty.

For Verse 9 states that "from 1 August 1990, protective boots designed for non-industrial use are standard-rated". The implications of this are obvious: it means that if the price of protective boots designed for non-industrial use now embraces a 15% levy, I can claim back that tax on any footwear designed to guard my feet against things falling on them while I am seated at the typewriter. This would knock nearly twelve quid off my new calf Oxfords.

Worth trying it on with the Customs & Excise scholars? Certainly. All one needs is a little faith.

Democracy defers to discipline

Mary Dejevsky in Moscow sees the hardline star in the ascendant, but cautions against writing off reforms

On the day after Mikhail Gorbachev replaced his liberal-minded interior minister with a Communist party traditionalist and battle-hardened general, nothing could be simpler than to talk of a retreat from reform, or even its abandonment. That assessment may yet prove justified. So far, however, the grounds for gloom are few, and such a judgment is premature.

Mr Gorbachev is a politician of the centre, a seeker after compromise. He does not spend hours of his precious time watching the proceedings of the Soviet parliament simply to make timely interventions. In recent weeks he has spent four full days there - plus visits to the Russian parliament and a Moscow Communist party meeting - listening, gauging the mood. He appears to have concluded what others have done: the mood has shifted significantly to what in Soviet political geography is called the right.

After a troubled summer and with a hungry winter ahead, Soviet opinion wants the restoration of discipline more than it wants additional freedom and democracy. The shift is nowhere more striking than at the Russian Congress of People's Deputies. In May

it was balanced within a handful of votes and eventually voted for Boris Yeltsin as president. Now it is weighted approximately 60:40 against the radicals.

The interior minister, Vadim Bakatin, was the first significant victim of this change, and there will be others. Mr Bakatin, as the minister responsible for law and order, was particularly exposed. His reputation as a liberal allowed people to see him as soft on crime and on nationalist separatism. He was also blamed for the failure to implement the presidential decree on disarming and outlawing unauthorised armed groups. Given the virtual guerrilla war being waged in parts of the Transcaucasus, it could not be implemented, but Mr Bakatin is widely held to be guilty of neglect.

In recent weeks, Bakatin gained notoriety for suggesting that the interior ministry troops, which have been deployed in many ethnic disputes, might become the responsibility of the individual Soviet republics. In devolutionist

eyes, the proposal had the merit of giving the republics responsibility to keep their own houses in order. For the central ministry, the proposal also had the merit of removing from its supervision an unpopular area of activity.

But the idea did not find favour with the predominantly conservative *Soyuz* (union) group of parliamentarians, who also blame Mr Bakatin for the appearance of Kalashnikov rifles in the hands of self-appointed customs officials in the Baltic states and for the centre's refusal, or inability, to halt the dismissal of ethnic Russian police chiefs in non-Russian areas. Mr Bakatin was the easiest of targets, his slightly rumpled intellectual appearance and easy manner making him all the more unpopular in those circles where discipline and formality are prized.

To see Mr Bakatin's removal exclusively as a blow to reform would, however, be premature. If anything has been clear since Mr Gorbachev promised a far-reaching reshuffle two weeks ago, it is

the fierceness of the battle being waged behind the scenes. Mr Gorbachev, moreover, is one of the shrewdest and wildest politicians in the business. Rather than surrender to pressure from conservatives, he may envisage a little horse-trading: a toughened interior ministry team, perhaps, in return for some more reforms on the economic side; the removal of Mr Bakatin, perhaps, in return for acquiescence in the appointment of Eduard Shevardnadze, the liberal-minded foreign minister, as his deputy president.

Until the reshuffle is complete, its meaning cannot be discerned. But nor can the precise political significance of the moves at the interior ministry. Certainly, the message being conveyed to the Soviet parliament and to the public is that the disciplinarians are moving in.

Again, the appointments of Boris Pugo, hitherto chairman of the Communist party's disciplinary body, the control commission, and General Boris Gromov, com-

mander of the Kiev military region, may not simply be moves to placate a demoralised party and a restless army respectively. Mr Pugo is a long-standing Gorbachev ally. Whether this was an alliance of convenience or a convergence of minds is uncertain, but Mr Gorbachev manoeuvred hard to ensure Pugo's re-election to his party post at the Congress in July. Nor is Mr Pugo necessarily a "hardliner". Discipline and ideological orthodoxy are not the same thing.

The significance of General Gromov's appointment is also as yet uncertain. He brings a strong personality, political ambition, a measure of popularity and an army uniform to the interior ministry. Whether he has been promoted or demoted, however, depends on what he is given to do. If he replaces Yuri Shatalin as commander of the interior ministry troops, his star has risen. If, however, he is an additional post, with special responsibility for combating crime, he has exchanged a promising military power base for one of the most difficult portfolios in the government - and Mr Gorbachev has neutralised another possible threat to his rule.

Have the greens blossomed only to fade and wither?

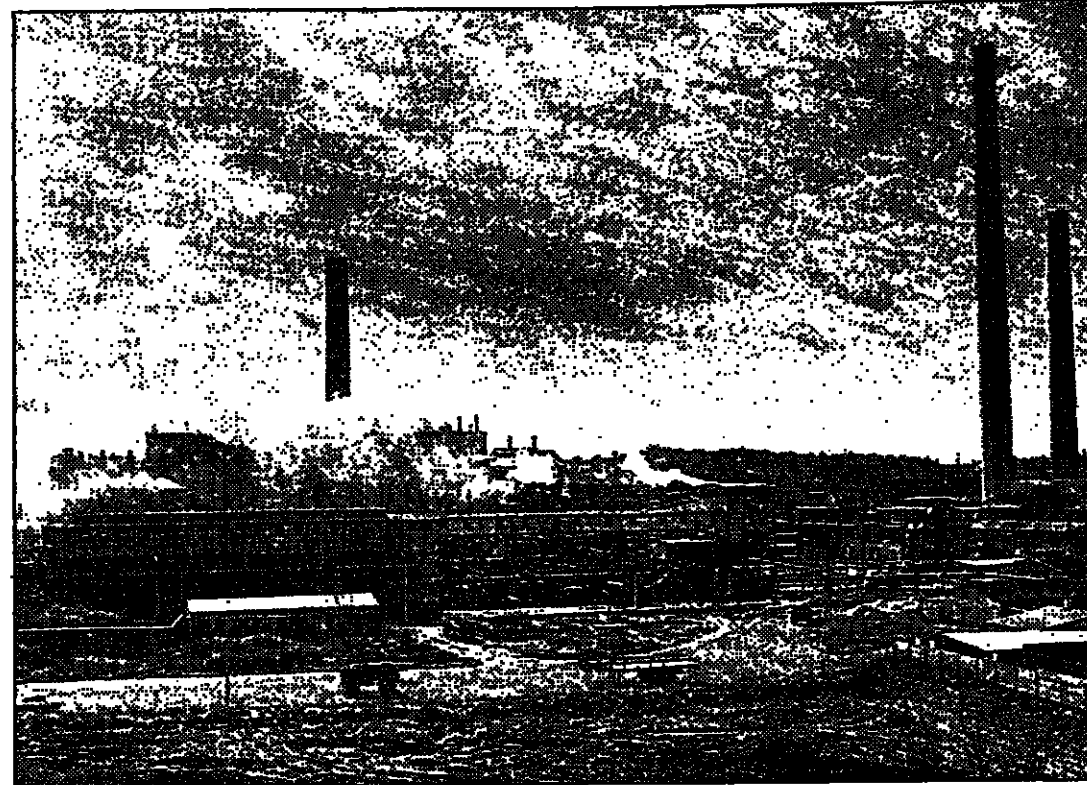
The outcome of the German election is a warning to environmentalists everywhere to avoid cliquishness and squabbling, writes Daniel Johnson

After a decade as the biggest and certainly the most self-important political party in the European Green movement, nemesis has finally overtaken the German Greens. In the first federal election of the reunified German state on Sunday, the swashbuckling, hairy, dungaree-sporting, tees and infuriatingly self-righteous *Grünen* failed to reach the 5 per cent threshold below which German parties languish in obscurity.

Only in the polluted wilderness of the new eastern provinces did ecology, civil rights, disarmament and other typically green issues still seem to voters to be matters of pressing concern. Yet even there, the Christians, pacifists and ecologists who played such an honourable part in the overthrow of the Honecker regime and gained a modest seven seats on Sunday were not members of *die Grünen* (they campaigned as "Alliance 90"). They had merely agreed an electoral pact with the older West German party, and did not share in its downfall.

Does the defeat of the German Greens signal the end, not merely of a very German dream of an unpolluted utopia, but also of the European movement of which *die Grünen* were, in the words of Tom Burke, director of the Green Alliance in Britain, "the anchor"? Will Green politics survive the 1990s, as recession and refugees, the end of the cold war and revived nationalism apparently eclipse the environment?

The past is in this case a poor guide to the future, since the German Greens emerged at a specific moment in German history. At its inception in 1979, the new party was given a symbolic



Pollution, typified by Bitterfeld in eastern Germany, is now a matter of mainstream concern

blessing at a mass meeting in West Berlin by Rudi Dutschke, hero of the student radicals of the 1960s. The atmosphere was apocalyptic, and Dutschke was soon to die from the bullet which an assassin's gun had lodged in his brain years before. Ecology was only the lowest common denominator. Frustration with the limitations of a social democratic government and fear of a Nazi revival if the Christian Democratic right ever returned to power combined with a deep hostility towards West Germany's parliamentary system, "Americanised" culture and commitment to NATO.

As the Schmidt government disintegrated in 1982-83, the Greens capitalised on the campaign against the deployment of cruise and Pershing missiles. Petra Kelly became a heroine of the left all over Europe. Her party leapt the 5 per cent hurdle in the 1983 election, and in 1987 (still profiting from weak leadership in the SPD) reached a peak of 43 seats in the state governments of Hesse and West Berlin, the party formed coalitions with the Social Democrats, and there was much talk of a

"Red-Green" government at national level. But when they were offered a research foundation on the model of those run by the three established parties, the Greens typically failed to agree on whether to accept it.

Decline had set in long before reunification dished the Greens once and for all. Though a few members of the party's moderate "Realo" wing (such as Joschka Fischer and Otto Schily) became respected politicians, the maximalist "Fundis" wing always managed to spike their jets. Led by a feminist aristocrat, Jutta (von) Dittfurth, the Fundis drove people like Schily to leave.

Having proclaimed themselves the representatives of future generations, the German Greens never consolidated their appeal for the youth of the present. They passed into history, their collective leadership squabbling amongst itself to the last.

How relevant is this experience likely to be to countries like Britain, where the Green party came to prominence only a decade after its German counterpart, at last year's European elections?

Like the socialist and communist internationalists of the past, the Greens have a powerful drive to transcend national boundaries. The ecological problems they address are rarely limited to single countries, and one of the lasting legacies of the German Greens will be the elevation of environmental activism to the notice of European Community institutions.

No EC member state is now able to persist in environmental policies much out of step with its neighbours. Thanks to the initial impetus provided by the electoral success of an environmental party in a country as important as Germany, which focused diffuse public concern across the continent, bureaucratic mechanisms came into existence which gave momentum to the "greening" of industry and government.

But the practical effect of such internationalism has been limited by the amateurishness and cliquishness of many Green politicians. Lacking the collective discipline and solidarity of either both communists and fascists were sometimes capable, the European Green parties have

never aroused the transcontinental emotional sympathy which is achieved by non-party organisations such as Greenpeace.

Tom Burke rejects the vulgar Marxist theory that politics and ideology are mere functions of the economic cycle, so he disputes the view that the end of the boom of the late 1980s spells doom for environmentalism. He believes that the Green parties have only ever been the impermanent and symbolic "surface layer" of a far more enduring shift in public mentality. "Green parties have always been more religious than political," he argues.

Mr Burke claims that, although there is a connection between affluence and interest in the environment, such concern may be non-political. He points out that membership of non-political environmental groups in Britain (some 5 million) is much larger than the maximum "Green vote" yet achieved here (2.3 million).

The next phase of European history could see a potentially dangerous appropriation of the anti-modern, utopian aspects of Green ideology by spokesmen of the new urban underclasses, which may be reinforced by mass immigration from the east. Yet in Germany itself, which is both the most Green and the most exposed to the economic and social disruption flowing from the east, the danger of Green totalitarianism now seems remote.

National Socialism likewise embraced a wide spectrum of anti-Western and anti-capitalist thought that was not specifically Hitlerian (think of Martin Heidegger), but that trauma may well have inoculated the country against messianic movements of all kinds. The aftermath of communism hardly seems a propitious time for new prophets to arise, even if there is a slump.

Yet green politics undoubtedly has an inherent tendency towards extremes: the absolute right of the individual to enjoy purity in everything, and to reject the modern world when it is impure. The German Greens will be seen by historians as the catalysts of a necessary change in European consciousness, but the absorption of the bulk of their following into the more conventional party system will be unlamented.

Key words that point to a move

As Michael Heseltine begins to grapple with poll tax reform, one of his first changes he may have to make is in his ministerial and advisory line-up. One junior minister, David Heathcoat-Amory, has already moved to the Department of Energy, and environment department officials now expect a further switching of jobs within the department so that those who in the past have resolutely defended the tax will speak on less contentious areas of the DoE's many responsibilities.

After five years out of government, Heseltine so far seems intent on doing things largely on his own. Despite his debt to Keith Hampton and Michael Mates, who managed his leadership challenge, he has not appointed a parliamentary private secretary. Nor has he recruited a special adviser to replace Patrick Rock, who joins Chris Patten at Central Office.

Michael Portillo has serious difficulties, given his previous record, but most speculation surrounds the position of Robert Key, promoted to the ministerial ranks within the DoE, with special responsibility for the poll tax, when Patrick Nicholls resigned during the Tory conference in October. Heseltine is said to be closely examining the text of an interview with the *Avon Advertiser* during the leadership election in which Key said of Heseltine and John Major: "Neither of the candidates have the qualities to deal with the difficult economy at home, a complicated situation in Europe, or the crisis in the Gulf."

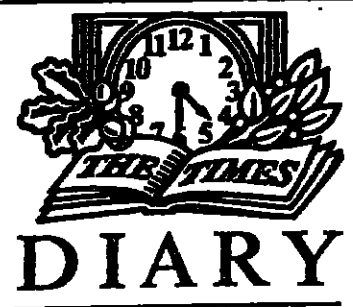
What will rouse Heseltine's ire even more is Key's repetition of the charge that Mrs Thatcher levelled at him: "Mr Heseltine is rather impetuous, as we have seen in the past, and a large number of my [Salisbury] constituents are unforgiving about him forcing Mrs Thatcher out." Key must hope Heseltine is more forgiving.

● Apart from John Major, what other members of the great and the good went to Rutlish grammar school, *Whitbread's* Not many, it seems. The only notable contemporaries of the new prime minister who have so far come to light are an unlikely pair: the founder of the Happy Easter chain of fast-food restaurants and Gerry Cottle of big top fame. Strangely, the old boy whose father did a circus act has ended up running the country. The old boy who now runs a circus came from a family of stock brokers. The classless society?

Oliver unveiled

Oliver's family - four of whom are involved in a new production of *Time and The Conways* opening at the Old Vic tomorrow - has finally agreed to authorise an Oliver biography. Son Richard, who is directing his mother, Joan Plowright, and sisters Tamsin and Julie-Kate in the Priestley revival, says that Plowright has agreed to make available to a suitable biographer all of Oliver's private diaries, letters and annotated scripts.

"I had never kept an intimate diary but we have all his appointment diaries and other papers in storage," he says. "It could be a few years before we see the book. My mother also intends to write her memoirs."



The family has taken a long time to agree to an authorised biography. After Lord Olivier died 18 months ago a number of writers sought permission to start work on a book, but all were rebuffed. No one has yet been chosen, but competition is bound to be intense.

Meanwhile Richard, who is 29, insists that family tensions have been remarkably absent from rehearsals for tomorrow night's opening in what he says was always his father's favourite theatre. "We have a wonderful shorthand and can be honest and frank with each other," he says. "As for my mother, I have been pleasantly surprised. She does exactly what she's told."

Evil empire?

During his visit to Britain starting today, Ronald Reagan will be disappointed not to take tea, as planned, with Mrs Thatcher at Number Ten. Nor will he have the south London traffic to visit her at Dulwich. Instead, on Thursday, Mrs Thatcher will call on Reagan at his suite at Claridges to discuss the good old days.

His disappointment may at least be offset by the unusual

honour, for an American, of being invited to join the all-male Saints and Sinners club, made up of the elite of the Lord's Taverners. Membership is restricted to exactly 100. There is currently one vacancy, which the club is expected to offer Reagan when he addresses it at a Savoy dinner on Friday.

Members are evenly divided between 50 saints and 50 sinners. So which is Reagan? As far as the Lord's Taverners are concerned, anyone who believes a bowler is a pitcher and thinks that cover point is more properly called first base can surely only be a sinner.



Biggest handicap

Irish women's rights campaigners, delighted by the inauguration in Dublin yesterday of Mary Robinson as the country's first woman president, are less pleased that she has been denied a privilege granted her predecessor, Dr Paddy Hillery.

When first elected in 1976, Hillery - who reputedly had the lowest golf handicap of any world leader - was immediately offered honorary membership of Port-

marnock, Ireland's most exclusive golf club. Explaining its failure to do the same for Mrs Robinson, the club says that Hillery was a member before he became president, and that the rules have no provision for granting honorary membership to non-members. Most clubs have a similar policy, it claims.

The explanation cuts little ice with the equals lobby, which considers that Mrs Robinson - and, by implication, all Irish women - have been slighted. With Mrs Robinson's support, Monica Barnes of the *Dail Women's Affairs* committee, has written to every golf club in Ireland demanding equal membership rights. Portmarnock, meanwhile, says the new president is welcome to a round whenever she wants, but only as a guest.

Record tribute

London managed to pay a 90th birthday tribute to Aaron Copland shortly before his death only because of the last-minute intervention of *The Times* City. With no sponsor in sight, the City of London Chamber Orchestra was on the brink of cancelling a series of concerts in his honour planned for St John's, Smith Square, in September. The orchestra contacted *The Times*, and a short piece here produced the desired result: a £7,500 donation from an anonymous New York law firm.

The orchestra invited Copland to the concerts but his failing health kept him at home in New York. Instead, tapes were sent to him which, the orchestra hopes, offered him moments of pleasure in the weeks before he died.



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

ELECTING CITY MAYORS

The reform of the constitutional landscape of England and Wales is back on the agenda, forced there by the fiasco of the poll tax. Attention is once again focused on the government of the cities. Michael Heseltine, already signalling his radicalism as environment secretary, is pondering the restoration of county borough status to large towns and cities. He and a number of ministers are also in favour of elected mayors, to reduce party domination of local councils, increase public participation in elections and raise the profile of local government generally. Turnouts in those democracies, such as France and the United States, which have elected mayors, are roughly double those in most British cities.

Ever since the great municipal innovations of the 19th century, the reform of local government has been bedevilled by party politics. The sequence of research, enquiry and shambolic decision initiated by the Redcliffe-Maud commission in 1969 led four years later to the submerging of supposedly left-wing cities in their surrounding, supposedly Tory, county areas. The new "metropolitan counties" created round Liverpool, Manchester, Sheffield, Birmingham and others were abolished in 1986. But other cuckoos remained in the nest, including the unloved pseudo-counties such as Avon and Humberside and county "districts" the size of Cardiff and Portsmouth.

Until recently, Tory radicals were plotting the dismantling of the entire county structure and devolving all sub-Whitehall government to the 369 district councils. So drastic a break with historical loyalties would have been even more unpopular than Peter Walker's 1970s reforms. Sanity may have returned with Mr Heseltine's arrival at the environment department. There is no point in a unit of local government which does not correspond to the local electorate's sense of geographical identity. Big or small, cities are cities and counties are counties, and if diverse sizes mean a diversity of service quality, so be it. The biggest cities were given back full county borough powers in 1986 and the case is now strong for doing the same to towns above, say, 200,000 population. If that means the end of Avon and Humberside — and even the return of Rutland

and the East Riding — so much the better. Reform, however, cannot rest there. The reason for the partial collapse of urban government in the 1970s was the seizure of its out-dated constitutional structure by corrupt political groups, some in the pocket of property developers, some in that of public sector unions. If cities are to get back full responsibility for planning, education and transport, two conditions must be satisfied.

The first is that a system of local finance must be in place that clearly relates spending to local taxation, perhaps as Ralf Dahrendorf suggests in a letter on this page, with some discretion as to how. The successor to the poll tax, which should be based on property value and should embrace businesses, must be seen to be levied on all householders, tenants as well as owner occupiers and landlords. Councils should be compelled to publicise their annual rate increase or decrease, and specific capital projects should be subject to local referendum, as in America.

The second condition is that the hold of political parties over local council membership should be weakened. Elected mayors would not end such a hold, but would personalise elections, increase public awareness and offer a chance to outsiders to enter the field. Such outsiders might not win, but might sufficiently jolt the existing parties to reduce their tendency to cronyism and extremism.

The mechanism by which mayors would exert authority would need, and should get, further study. They might operate outside the existing structure of executive council committees, being largely ceremonial but with small budgets. Or they could enjoy full tax-raising and executive functions, with council committees having only advisory status. Given the restricted discretion left to local councils nowadays, there seems little reason not to go the latter route, to plenipotentiary mayors subject only to the need to get the annual rate through their councils.

Either way, the demoralised legions of local government throughout the United Kingdom are urgently in need of a vote of confidence from central government. Mr Heseltine's ideas merit wide discussion followed by swift action.

FIVE MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT

Trade ministers from 107 countries have until Friday to save the world's trading system from disintegration. Yesterday they began the final session of the Uruguay round of trade talks with protectionist farmers baying at the doors. So likely is collapse that Brussels talk is of stopping the clocks until after the new year. Such diplomatic legerdemain would be downright irresponsible. Agreement is urgent.

The United States appears to be heading for a recession. Economic stagnation, there and elsewhere, will increase protectionist pressures. Yet a deal would provide a trade stimulus to the world economy. Carla Hills, the US trade representative, calculates that agreement could add \$4,000 billion to global output over the next ten years.

The world is accustomed to trade talks which drag on, to false ultimatums and artificial deadlines. This time, however, delay really could mean disaster. The negotiations are so complex that without political decisions to remove the main obstacles to agreement this week there will simply not be time to produce final texts by March 1. On that date, the "fast track" authority granted to the American government by the US Congress, which commits congress to accept or reject the deal without amendment, expires. There is no prospect that it will be renewed.

Instead of criticising American legislators for holding the world to ransom, free traders should bless them. The authority of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) is threatened by the proliferation of non-tariff barriers such as "voluntary" export restraint agreements, the growth of regional trading blocs and bilateral deals. Moreover, GATT rules exclude whole sectors, such as agriculture and services. Agreement would remedy that, equipping GATT for the modern world.

The traditional free-traders, the United States and Western Europe, are to blame for today's deadlock. They are quarrelling over two key sectors, trade in agriculture and in services. As a result, the industrialised nations are warring on their pledge, at the Houston summit last year, to make the Uruguay round "the highest priority on the international

economic agenda".

The European Community has pooled its sovereignty in these talks, agreeing to let the European Commission negotiate on behalf of the Twelve — with disastrous results so far. The commission's hands have been tied by French and German refusal to accept radical cuts in farm subsidies for fear of dismantling the Common Agricultural Policy. The EC offer falls absurdly short of other countries' demands. The EC argues that the principle is what really matters, and that it has taken a revolutionary step by agreeing to subject the market-rigging games of the CAP to international scrutiny. But principles butter no parsnips. On any assessment, the size of the EC's offer is not enough.

Unless it does better, the round will collapse. The responsibility for breaking this deadlock lies with Chancellor Helmut Kohl. His determination to keep the farm vote in Sunday's elections lay behind the Franco-German axis blocking a realistic deal.

But the Americans could set a virtuous circle going by making concessions of their own. The American commitment to free trade has been suspect since Congress added "crownbar" clauses to American trade legislation in 1988. Under these, the US may impose sanctions against governments which it labels "protectionist". Its attitude to the Uruguay round, constructive in agriculture, has moreover been much less so when it comes to services. Here, America has kowtowed to its civil aviation, shipping and telecommunications lobbies. Washington now says that in these sectors, it will not accept the GATT obligation not to discriminate between trading partners.

Once a deal had been done on these two issues, overall agreement would not be far away. With the trade ministers bogged down, heads of government must step in. And here, Britain's "mid-Atlantic" stance, often criticised within the EC, places it in a powerful position to press for a creative compromise. John Major should grab this heaven-sent opportunity to establish himself on the international stage.

HOLY SMOKE

Edward VI ordered Holy Island to be fortified against marauding Scots, hence its romantic 16th-century castle. Stone walls, unfortunately, are not strong enough to keep out marauding English big game. Holy Island, otherwise known as Lindisfarne, may be about to lose its volunteer fire brigade because the county council by a majority of 10 has decided to abolish it.

At high tide the island's mile-long causeway is covered by the sea. The county council has apparently not considered a regulation forbidding the tide to come in, but its alternatives are hardly less. When the water is under way, professional firemen will be flown in by RAF or some other helicopter; at low tide they will drive the 15 miles from Berwick, the nearest Northumberland town. No doubt they will arrive breathlessly trailing streams of red tape.

Holy Island's eight amateur fire fighters have their own fire engine and have put out 11 fires in the last five years. Such are the penalties for trying to be helpful, they have been told to disband because they are not trained to the standards required by the new Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations. The county council's decision is as silly as forbidding first-aiders to attend sprained ankles because they lack degrees in brain surgery.

Presumably anyone who so much as reaches for a bucket of water to douse a smouldering rubbish bin will be hauled off to Berwick's

ancient prison. Local pride being what it is, the island people are fighting to save their fire brigade. Their main hope is that enough volunteers can be found to undergo the extra training necessary to satisfy the regulations. This submission to the letter of the law does them credit. But if these tactics fail there is still an alternative.

Lindisfarne, with its famous ruined priory, knows about monks and monasteries, having been home for many a saint and hermit. Its people need to remember the story of the monk who liked his pipe. He asked his prior if it was acceptable for him to smoke while he said his prayers. The prior was appalled at his irreverence. The holy man prayed for inspiration, and the answer came. He duly went to the abbot and asked: was he allowed to say a prayer while he smoked? The abbot congratulated him on his piety.

If all else fails, let Northumberland county council make such arrangements as it thinks fit. Let the local firemen stand down, and the helicopter take over. Then after a decent interval — and perhaps a few incinerated residences — a local worthy might step forward with a novel suggestion. Why not let the island people organise a "voluntary fire-fighting" service, to tackle such fires as are within their capacity? What an obvious idea, the county councillors will say, what an admirable public spirit! What a saving to the rates (which will be back by then). The people of Lindisfarne can catch each other's eye, and wink.

Fresh thoughts on the poll tax

From the Warden of St Antony's College, Oxford

Sir, In his useful survey of "poll tax solutions" (report, December 1), Mr Tony Travers lists seven possibilities but leaves out one option which seems the most obvious to anyone who knows what happens elsewhere in the world: why does central government have to determine how local government raises its revenues?

Would it not be more appropriate to leave it to local authorities to determine the desirable and acceptable mix of community charges with property taxes and other sources? Moreover, would not such power in the hands of local authorities help devolve power ("subsidiarity") while increasing genuine accountability?

Might it not even lead, after unavoidable initial blips, to a "market" answer to the vexing question of local government finance in that authorities would discover by (perhaps painful) experience the most plausible revenue mix?

Yours sincerely,
RALF DAHRENDORF,
St Antony's College,
Oxford.

December 1.

From Mr D. R. Heginbotham

Sir, I suspect that this administration will deal with collecting the community charge against the determined opposition of non-payers not only by extending the categories of those persons exempt from the tax (excluding, for example, student nurses) but also by "forgiving" the liability of those hard-nosed individuals who have failed to pay up this year. The result will be a higher level of charge for those of us who have readily paid, to make up this year's lost revenue.

There are precedents for this kind of generous treatment for non-payers already set by the post-1979 Conservative administration. Thus, for example, in 1982 the Inland Revenue, at the government's behest, "forgave" millions of pounds of unpaid income tax due from print-industry casual workers, provided they agreed to pay tax in the future.

Probably the worst fraud of all committed by the Conservative government was the virtual "gifting" of council-owned housing to their sitting tenants — housing which had been largely paid for by those of us who, by careful saving and budgeting, had bought our own housing and had for years been mulcted in exorbitant domestic rates.

We thought we were paying towards the housing stock for the benefit of the less well-off of future generations, not to provide tax-free capital gains for the profligate.

Yours faithfully,
D. R. HEGINBOTHAM,
The Millstone, 11 Mill Race,
Stanstead Abbots,
Ware, Hertfordshire,
November 28.

From Mr Sidney Z. Manches

Sir, The main objection to returning to the old rating system, but based on the market value of properties instead of their hypothetical rental value, is the huge task of valuing millions of properties, the many years it would take, and how to phase it in the

Flight security

From Professor J. F. D. Greenhalgh

Sir, Dr J. A. Jarvis's experience (November 29) of Air France flying baggage without its owner is somewhat similar to my own. I arrived in Paris from Nigeria on July 5 to be met by the chaos induced by the French air traffic controllers' strike. My baggage was put on an Air France flight to London, but when I attempted to check in for the flight I was refused both a seat and the return of my baggage.

As I had no prospect of flying to London that day I had to travel by train and hovercraft, eventually catching up with my baggage the following day.

Air France claim that "no risk of any kind was involved" as the baggage had passed a security check in Nigeria and was in transit. Recent events suggest that baggage handled in this way and flying unaccompanied may not be safe.

Yours faithfully,
J. F. D. GREENHALGH,
University of Aberdeen,
School of Agriculture,
Aberdeen 9.

Driving alone

From Mr Ian MacKenzie

Sir, For £215 a woman driving alone (or with children) could install a car telephone with which to summon help in the event of a breakdown.

A small price to pay for safety — but she must then pay £300 a year to use it. The £25 monthly charge is, no doubt, largely due to the limit of wavelengths available for personal lines.

Is it not time that a safety car phone, operating on one single wavelength to the 999 operator, was introduced, thereby eliminating, or at least, greatly reducing the annual charge?

Yours faithfully,
IAN MACKENZIE,
Polhill, Harrieston,
Nr Maidstone, Kent,
November 30.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

meanwhile, I suggest that the old estate duty office's method could solve this problem.

Each occupier would estimate his own valuation of his property and the rates percentage would be calculated on that. In due course, the rating authority officials would decide the value, and the amount of rates paid in the previous years would be adjusted. Under-payments would be registered as a charge on the property, with interest thereon not tax-deductible.

Over-payments would be refunded, plus interest also free of tax. Few people would deliberately undervalue. Many might welcome the tax-free interest earned by an overvalue.

Perhaps I should declare an interest. Before the introduction of the charge, my rates were just over £3,000 per annum. My poll tax this year was approximately one-seventh of that.

Yours truly,
SIDNEY Z. MANCHES,
63 North Gate,
Prince Albert Road, NW8,
November 28.

From Mr David Kemp, QC

Sir, Since the cost of local services depends on the number of persons in a house rather than on the size or quality of the house itself, I suggest that the rate payable by the rateable occupier should contain a second element based upon the number of adult persons living in the house. A detailed enquiry such as you propose (leading article, November 28) could decide how that element is to be determined and whether a statutory ceiling should be imposed on it.

A change of this nature would be difficult to introduce before the next general election. In the meantime, temporary financial adjustments can be made to meet obvious hardship or injustice. The commitment to a radical change of this nature would be attractive to the electorate and would, as you say, demonstrate that Mr Major was not the prisoner of previous policies.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID KEMP,
4 Raymond Buildings,
Gray's Inn, WC1,
November 28.

From Mr Douglas J. McBean

Sir, I was one of those who campaigned in local government elections last May, arguing passionately in favour of the community charge, in which I firmly believe.

The community charge is not what is at issue here — it is surely fair that everyone who utilises the services provided by local government should contribute towards the cost. No, what is at issue is the effectiveness and productivity of local government.

The government has for 1991-2 generously increased local councils' standard spending assessments. Local councillors should take great care to ensure that within these spending targets they provide a cost-effective service. If not, Mr Heseltine should tackle that problem, not the community charge itself.

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS J. McBEAN,
24 Pampas Close,
Colchester, Essex,
November 29.

Adoption from abroad

From Mr N. J. T. Butler

Sir, The reference in Sally Brompton's article, "How far can we go to adopt?" (Life and Times, November 7) to Hampshire's policy on inter-country adoption was out of date and does not reflect current practice.

Recognising that an increasing number of couples want to adopt children from overseas, we have set up services which will protect the children's interests, and give prospective adopters information and advice on all aspects of inter-country adoption. Home study reports are done at an early stage by specialist social workers who also liaise with the Department of Health.

Moreover, Hampshire Social Services are also involved actively in trying to help children in Romania. Three members of staff are currently part of a multi-disciplinary team working in Ungaraz with children "written off" by the Ceausescu regime. The team is helping the Romanians improve assessment techniques and provide treatment, stimulation and rehabilitation for the children.

Yours sincerely,
TERRY BUTLER,
(Director of Social Services),
Hampshire County Council,
The Castle, Winchester, Hampshire,
November 22.

Notwithstanding

From Mr R. T. Oerton

Sir, Your leading article (November 30) about lawyers' "gobbledygook" is both right and wrong.

Yes, it is desirable and (nearly always) possible to avoid antiquated phraseology and to draft in language which is (or at least seems) comprehensible to non-lawyers. The lawyers' organisation CLARE is dedicated to the use of plain English in legal writing.

But one has to distinguish between complexity which is avoidable and complexity which serves only to reflect the complexity of the law which, in its turn, serves only to reflect the complexity of late 20th-century civilisation. To blame the legal draftsman for this is like killing the messenger who brings the bad news.

Putting a price on opera stars

From Mr Michael D. Varcoe-Cocks

Sir, I hope that the Royal Opera House's figures in John Higgins's article (Saturday Review, November 17) on the costs of mounting the recent new production of *Attila the Hun* will help show that opera in a 2,000-seater house is not only labour-intensive but actually modestly cost-effective.

It is, however, amazing that an organisation which relies for its continued existence on a large, if insufficient and ungenerous, subsidy from taxpayers can steadfastly refuse to publish details of fees paid to the stars (singers, conductors, producers) who, in the case of *Attila*, account for 26 per cent of the budget but less than 3 per cent of the people involved.

The secret mystique which surrounds opera-singers' fees serves only to feed already over-inflated egos and is inappropriate where public money is and public accountability ought to be involved. Most opera-goers would feel Pavarotti is worth many times his rumoured nightly fee of £10,000, but how many mediocre singers have their fees bolstered and protected by the fact that their public have no idea how much they earn?

These figures, drawn from the *Attila* article, shows an interesting range of average individual earnings:

	A	B	C
Stars	£	£	%
Soprano	2,578	26	3
Conductor	328	16	15
Other artists	143	19	41
Production	134	10	23
Administration	32	2	18

A — per cent of night
B — per cent of costs
C — per cent of numbers

Although the "stars" can perform only two or three times a week, their income is boosted by

recordings, promotions, advertising etc.

Yours faithfully,
M. D. VARCOE-COCKS,
5 Brackenbury Road, W6,
November 26.

From Mr Ewen Balfour

Sir, Kenneth Warren's criticism of the cost of Covent Garden's production of *Attila the Hun* (letter, November 28) is an argument not for cheaper opera, but for none. Opera is always expensive and is always subsidised one way or another. The Royal Opera House receives half the subsidy per performance of any publicly-funded opera house in Europe.

Opera gets only 45 per cent of the total Arts Council grant, the other 55 per cent goes to the two Royal Ballet companies. Between them the three companies give 450 performances a year, at Covent Garden, throughout the UK, and overseas. Every independent enquiry into our affairs has confirmed our cost-efficiency.

The Royal Opera House now receives only 8.7 per cent of the total Treasury grant to the Arts Council, compared with 12.1 per cent in 1984-5. And subsidy over the same period has declined from 55 per cent of our income to about 35 per cent. If opera and ballet of international stature are to survive at Covent Garden — and it is in London's and the nation's interest that they should — these facts need to be understood, and these trends reversed.

Yours,

EWEN BALFOUR
(Director of Public Affairs),
Royal Opera House,
Covent Garden, WC2,
November 29.

Middle East issues

From Mr John V. Whitbeck

Sir, George Bush has apparently premised his latest military build-up in the Gulf and his current UN strategy (report, November 26) on the belief that Saddam Hussein will withdraw from Kuwait only if he is convinced that the United States has both the will and the means to launch a military offensive and that war is inevitable if he does not withdraw. Simple psychology suggests that this premise is almost certainly wrong.

Defending one's country against a massive American attack, even if that defence is ultimately doomed to failure, offers prospects of honour and glory. Presiding over the economic strangulation of one's country and the impoverishment of one's people offers neither.

George Bush should not be trying to convince Saddam Hussein of his eagerness to fight a major war on top of the world's oilfields but rather that the embargo, blockade and pariah status of Iraq will be maintained for however long it takes Saddam, or his successor, to comply with the relevant UN resolutions. This would be a far easier task, since steadfastness, unlike war, would entail no pain or risks for America. As both a more credible position and one less appealing to Saddam, it would also be more likely to achieve withdrawal.

War is not inevitable. Steadfastness, patience and wisdom are not inevitable either, but they are precisely what the situation calls for.

Very truly yours,

JOHN V. WHITBECK,
150 rue de l'Université,
75007 Paris, France,
November 26.

From Mr S. Blair Southerton

Sir, Brigadier Cordingley has sought to warn the British public of the potential casualties which

will occur from a war in the Gulf (report, November 30). What assessment is the government making on potential casualties outside the Iraq-Kuwait borders, should the Iraqis resort to nuclear or chemical terrorism in the rest of the world?

I fear the possible consequences of military conflict have not been thought through.

Yours faithfully,
S. BLAIR SOUTHERDEN,
160 Downs Road, South
Wootton,
Winchester, Hampshire,
November 30.

From Colonel Robert Wilson

RAMC (ret'd)

Sir, I share Colonel Hector's worries (November 19) about the adequacy of medical support during the present Middle East crisis.

However, I take issue with his assertion that military hospitals have "never before" been closed down at the approach of large-scale war. I was serving at the Cambridge Military Hospital in 1956, at the time of the Suez crisis, when the commanding officer called us together on a Sunday morning to outline the plan for the hospital. By the middle of that afternoon, the number of patients had been reduced from over 500 to less than 100, by early discharge, or transfer to other units. We were then prepared to accept casualties from the battle zone, which in the event did not occur. There were few manpower problems in those days of National Service.

One can only speculate, with some regret, how different the scenario might have been had our American cousins then supported us with the energy and enthusiasm we do them today.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT WILSON,
Little Highclere,
Higher Warberry Road,
Torquay, Devon,
November 19.

Frederick's burial

From Dr Michael Hughes

Sir, Your report (November 19) plans to rebury the body of Frederick the Great of Prussia at Potsdam. In fact he lay buried, with other Prussian monarchs, in the Garrison Church at Potsdam until a few years ago. When the East German authorities demolished the church, a famous symbol of Prussian militarism, Frederick's body was taken secretly to Sigmaringen, capital of a former Prussian territory in south Germany.

I am told that he is shortly to be reburied in the grounds of his favourite home, Sanssouci palace, which is where he wanted to be buried in the first place. The event should be watched with interest as it might spark off a revival of Prussian nationalism.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HUGHES,
Larne, North Road,
Aberystwyth, Dyfed,
November 19.

Plastics menace

From Mr J. R. H. Sale

Sir, "Biodegradable" plastics sound an elegant solution to the problem of baling silage. However, I must point out to Mr Roddy Sale (November 16) that plastic films are normally gas or oil-sourced; that the manufacturing process consumes energy; and that plastic films are all recyclable.

Even if the films were fully degradable, is Mr Sale suggesting that we should throw away this valuable source of raw material and the locked-in energy, leaving the problem of vanishing resources to future generations?

Our group, British Polythene Industries, in conjunction with the National Farmers' Union, has recently launched a national scheme for the free collection of polythene films from farmers. If a "degradable" film is included, our capacity to recycle will be reduced. Yours sincerely,

J. R. H. SALE
(Group external sales manager),
British Visqueen Limited,
Yarm Road,
Stockton-on-Tees,
Cleveland.

Under the net?

From Mr James Slater

Sir, I was most alarmed to observe (caption, December 3) that the French government was represented at the Channel tunnel breakthrough celebrations by M. Mellink, its minister of fisheries. Do the French know something about the construction work which we should be told?

Yours faithfully,
JAMES SLATER,
38 Heol-y-Delyn,
Llwyn, Cardiff.

NOTICES

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In this action, Mr. Rudyard Kipling claimed an injunction to restrain the defendants from publishing, as part of an advertisement, a literary work by him entitled "If," or any part of it, and from otherwise infringing his copyright in the verses.

The defendants had inserted the following lines in an advertisement of their preparation known as "Sanatogen":

"If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the will which says to them:
'Hold on.'"

Mr. Hughes, K.C., and Mr. Macgillivray appeared for the plaintiffs, Mr. Hogg, K.C., and Mr. W. Gordon Brown for the defendants.

Mr. Hughes said that the defendants dealt in the patent food known as Sanatogen. The plaintiff wrote the "If," a poem of 32 lines. About the beginning of 1918 it appeared to have occurred to the defendants that the last four lines of the third stanza might be used or deemed as an advertisement, and they proceeded, without having had the courtesy to ask the permission of Mr. Kipling, so to use the lines. The matter only came to the knowledge of Mr. Kipling in April last. Nothing could be more annoying to an author of Mr. Kipling's reputation than to have his work associated with the cheap-trick of the latest medicine vendor.

By their defence the defendants said that they made no advertisement which had the copyright in "If" and they said that they quoted the lines

from the defendant's chapters in volumes were often headed by quotations from well-known poems.

Mr. Brown said that the lines were put in the defendant's advertisement simply to make a point, just as many writers quoted lines to make a point.

Mr. Hughes, in reply, said that if the defendants were correct in saying that this was not an infringement of the plaintiff's copyright there was the terrible prospect for authors of seeing their works put up in fields as advertisements for Beecham's Pills and other things.

Mr. Justice Peterson, in delivering judgment, said that the poem "If" was very well known and for that reason no doubt the defendants had used it for their advertisement. He was not surprised that Mr. Kipling, or any other poet, should object to have his poem used in that way. It was not unfair to say that if a poem was used in that way, the author should offer to pay for it. There was no doubt that Mr. Kipling was the owner of the copyright in "If." That being so, under the Copyright Act of 1911, he had the sole right to produce or reproduce it, or any substantial part of it.

The question really was whether the defendants had taken a substantial part of the poem "If." The four lines which they had taken were important lines. In his opinion, therefore, the defendants had infringed Mr. Kipling's copyright, and there must be an injunction to prevent them from using the advertisement in future.

Mr. Hughes. — I ask for 40s. damages.

Mr. Justice Peterson. — And costs.

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merger books

Radical shirt-sleeve chic

Cufflinks have always offered designers a small-scale canvas. Liz Smith selects a range

Cufflinks or jewelled cuff buttons have been in fashion ever since men stopped flourishing flourishes of lace at the wrists that were held together with cuff "strings". In the 19th century, when plain double cuffs became too heavily starched to be closed with buttons, cufflinks were established as essentials in every gentleman's wardrobe.

The two linked discs soon became the canvas for all manner of decorative flourishes, from a simple button rimmed and centred with jewels, to custom-made cufflinks displaying portraits of pets in enamel, club colours, pheasants, or the biggest fish ever caught. Even miniatures of loved ones can be reproduced in enamel.

The simplest cufflinks are the simplest. At Tiffany a silver button with gold criss-cross stitching costs £90, but its best-selling style for more than 40 years remains a double button cufflink in 18ct gold, at £420. An even more extravagant present, packaged in the distinctive blue Tiffany box, would be 18ct gold button links with diamonds in the stitch holes (£1,105).

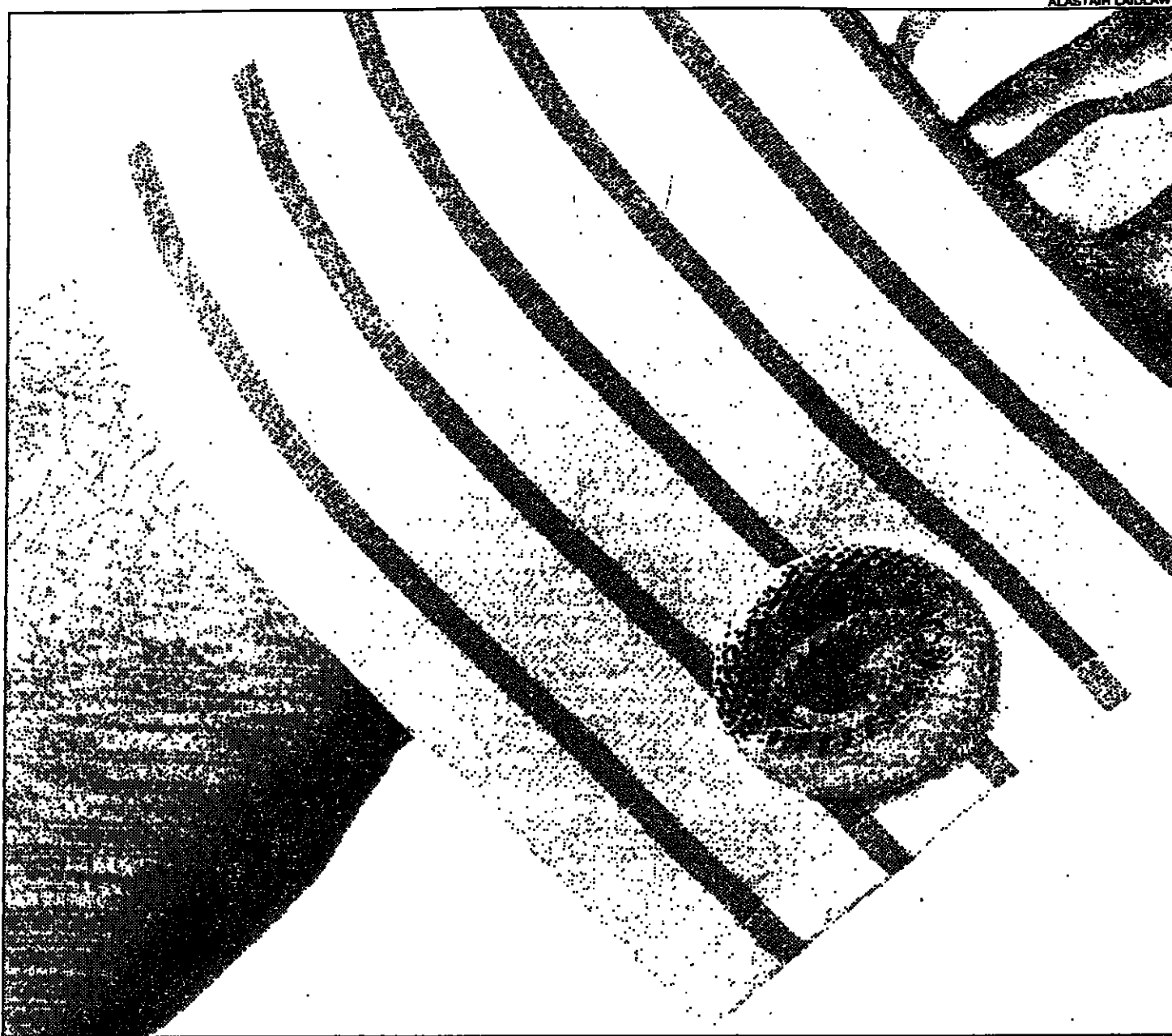
Cartier translates its popular Russian wedding ring design into

Even miniatures of loved ones can be reproduced in enamel

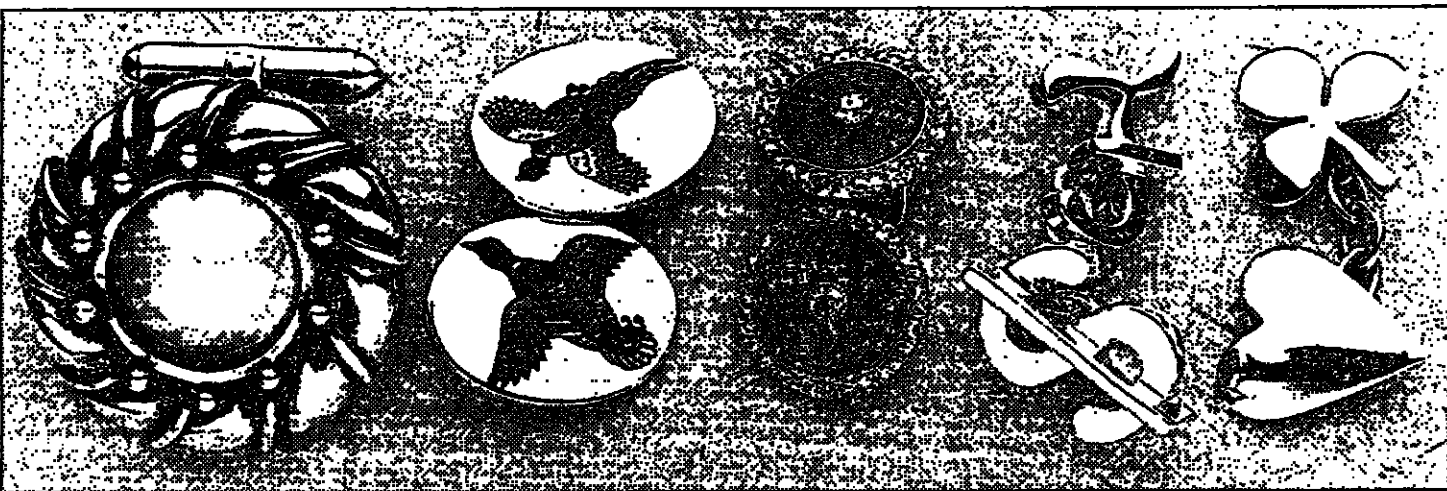
classic cufflinks that are twists of three colours of gold, costing £1,405. Typical Cartier cabochon-cut gemstones sunk into the City range of cufflinks include onyx, lapis, coral and malachite, priced from £950.

Hermès's 18ct gold Sellier button cufflinks, with Hermès engraved around the edge, cost £920. At Gucci, cufflinks in stirrup or GG designs start at £35 in metal, and at £140 in 18ct gold.

At Turnbull & Asser in Jermyn Street (where one cuff is made bigger on bespoke shirts, to take into account the wearer's wrist) Kenneth Williams, the managing director, has watched customers switch from simple three-buttoned cuffs to double cuffs that demand links. He has transformed Turnbull & Asser shirt buttons into smart cufflinks, backed and criss-cross stitched in 18ct gold for £95 (£75 for silver). Smoked pearl button cufflinks are supplied for evening shirts, £195 for a set of cufflinks and three studs. Most of the shirts sold by Thomas Pink, the shirtmakers with shops in London, Bath and Edinburgh and with a large mail order clientele, are double-cuffed. Pink sells silver cufflinks in plain ovals, or adorned with a fox's head and tail, as well as the colourful silk knots that are hand-made in



How to clinch the deal on a nod and a wink: wear a pair of eye cufflinks by Paul Smith, price £39, seen here adorning a Thomas Pink cotton shirt



Think links: (from left) pearl and silver cufflinks, £360, Paul Smith; 9ct gold pheasant cufflinks, £650, Nigel Milne; Victorian diamond and blue enamel cufflinks, £5,200, Paul Longmire; sterling-dollar links in silver, £49.95, Charles Tyrwhitt; hearts and clubs in 9ct gold, £420, Garrard

Indonesia and cost just £5. Hornes (with branches around the country) sells cufflinks displaying Hot and Cold as on ceramic taps, price £45, and typewriter keys mounted on sterling silver. Herbert Johnson in Bond Street has a good selection of cufflinks, mixing fishing hat and rod, or jockey's crop and cap, as well as one that marries a miniature bowler hat with a rolled-up copy of *The Times* (£75).

The mecca for antique cufflinks in London is, appropriately, in the gentlemanly, clubby atmosphere of St. James's, where Paul Longmire presides over a collection of 600 different cufflinks.

Holder of three royal warrants, he keeps his customers supplied with late 19th-century and early Edwardian cufflinks, and enjoys searching out pieces to satisfy the quirkiest demands. Prices start at about £1,000, although an antique mother-of-pearl button cufflink, knotted in gold, is priced at £860. The Crafts Council shop at the Victoria & Albert Museum, always a good source of unconventional presents, has commissioned cufflinks from 19 designers for a special mini-exhibition called "Off the Cuff", with conventional and eccentric pieces in a variety of materials costing from £10 to £2,000.

Among the more notable pieces are cufflinks in brightly coloured enamel on silver by a Royal College of Art graduate, Zsuzsi Morrison, and geometrically-patterned PVC, laminate and rubber cufflinks by the Scottish designer, Anne Finlay. Peter Chang's vividly coloured, carved and inlaid acrylic cufflinks use an old Chinese lacquer technique. Some include tiny acrylic mirrors and gold leaf discs. Alistair McCallum, a silversmith, is showing cufflinks in a mixture of metals - silver with brass and copper, for example. His use of chemicals to patinate the metals results in quite dramatic colour contrasts.

More classical are Alison MacCullough's peach and black marble and silver pieces, and Vicky Ambrey-Smith's architecturally-inspired, mixed metal cufflinks. Precious metal pieces include Gerda Flockinger's collectable work in silver and gold with pearls and stones.

Paul Smith, Floral St, London WC2; Nigel Milne, 16c Grafton St, W1; Paul Longmire, 12 Bury St, SW1; Charles Tyrwhitt, 32 Faraday Rd, W10; Garrard, 112 Regent St, W1. Off the Cuff is at the Crafts Council Shop, Victoria & Albert Museum, London SW7 (071-589 5070) until December 23, from 10am-5.30pm Monday-Saturday, 2.30-5.30pm Sunday.

Recalling the lights fantastic

Are the glittering Christmas illuminations of Regent Street fading into a dim memory?

A FAVOURITE refrain at this time of year is that the Regent Street lights "aren't what they used to be". In the Fifties and Sixties people went mad for the lights, if the newspapers of the time are to be believed. The display in 1959 made the centre spread of *Life* magazine; the *Evening Standard* devoted its first full-page, full-colour picture to the lights of 1961.

The hysteria probably peaked in 1960. Cartoonists of every important newspaper seemed to find a way of including the lights in a topical joke, while some writers even took the theme of internally-lit angels quite seriously. "They lean forward to sound their trumpets in glory," the *Yorkshire Post* reported. "They are unliturgical, but they are folklore angels, long-garmented, and as they are now they will be admired by many thousands." There were many pictures of the naive and untutored gazing upwards with their mouths open. "Blimey, guv," a cabbie was reported to have told the angels' designer, Beverley Pick, "this place gets more like heaven every day."

Mr Pick was responsible for the design of 12 of Regent Street's Christmas lighting schemes, beginning with the first in 1954. A year earlier he had designed the street's decorations for the Queen's coronation.

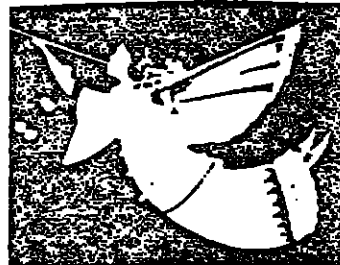
In 1954 there was simply a series of lanterns hanging from the shop fronts. "It didn't occur to anyone you could string a whole lot of clobber across the street," Mr Pick says. However, by the next year he was stringing clobber across the street in the form of snow crystals, glistening shapes suspended from wires and floodlit. By 1959, the familiar Pick trademark of independently-lit "features" suspended across the street and linked by loops of coloured lights had emerged. This was the year of his chandeliers. "That was my all-time favourite scheme," he says.

BY THE mid-Sixties, the demands of the job - climbing up and down ladders, trying to apply stagecraft while standing out in the rain night after night - were too much for him. "I used to sit at home and pray that nothing fell off," he says. Mr Pick is now retired from a successful design career that earned him an OBE. Since 1966, a number of designers have done the Regent Street lights, including the Conran Design Group (1987), Imagination (1988), and the jewellers Butler & Wilson (1982).

Why do the decorations seem to have lost some of their impact? Harry With, the designer of this year's clowns scheme for Vantage Design, defends them energetically. "Who are you creating the lights for? It's not for people like Terence Conran. It's for the children. We've been through trees, we've been through stars."

Mr Pick's approach was different. "In my day," he says, "I used to set out to appeal to the more sophisticated, who, after all, did their shopping in Regent Street. Kids would only be attracted by the lights and the colour."

The real difference probably lies



Making light of Christmas: from top, Regent Street illuminations in 1960, 1979 and this year



Those bright, remembered days: Beverley Pick in the Sixties

in the cost. This year's scheme cost £175,000, contributed partly by the traders of the Regent Street Association, and partly by National Power, in the form of sponsorship. In the early days, Mr Pick was working with budgets of about £30,000. "If they did those schemes today, it would probably be £1 million-worth of work," he says.

No one, of course, is going to put up £1 million for Christmas lights unless it is clear that there is something to be gained from it. "In the Fifties and early Sixties going to see the lights became the thing to do," Mr Pick says. "Now even the media have lost interest."

CALLUM MURRAY

All change for the big show

Television fashion goes live with a challenge from *The Times*

BIRMINGHAM establishes its place on the fashion map this week when BBC television's *The Clothes Show* moves into the National Exhibition Centre and becomes "live".

Since 1986, when the programme was first screened and

started to lower the rarefied tone that television had previously taken towards high fashion, the organisers have been pressed by viewers wanting to attend shows and events. As a result the *Clothes Show* team, headed by Jeff Banks and Selina Scott, went

"public" for the first time last year and 30,000 fashion enthusiasts crowded the exhibition halls at Olympia, west London.

Now the event, which is sponsored by Lloyds Bank, is to be expanded into a five-day fashion bonanza, opening on Thursday.

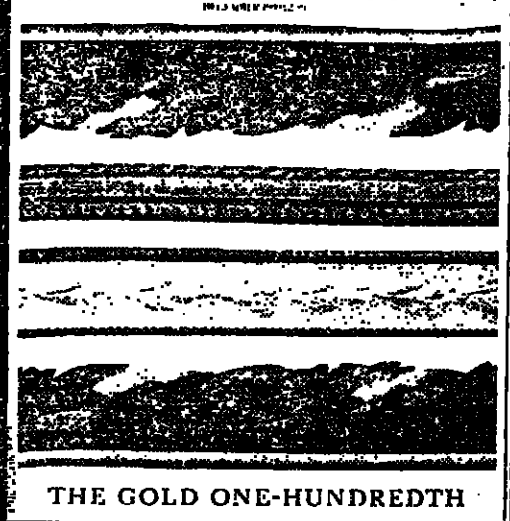
On stand G113 in Hall 8, *The Times* is challenging fashion students taking the BA honours course at the Polytechnic of Central London to



Presenter: Selina Scott design a different outfit each day based on pages from the Saturday Review section, printed on to wool challis. Beauty experts will demonstrate their skills on volunteers, and the secrets of fashion photography will be revealed in improvised studios. Six catwalk shows will be staged each day and Mary Quant, Vivienne Westwood (the designer of the year), Edina Ronay, Antony Price and John Richmond head the list of guest designers.

L.S. © The Clothes Show Live, NEC, Birmingham, December 6-10

THE WORLD OF INTERIORS



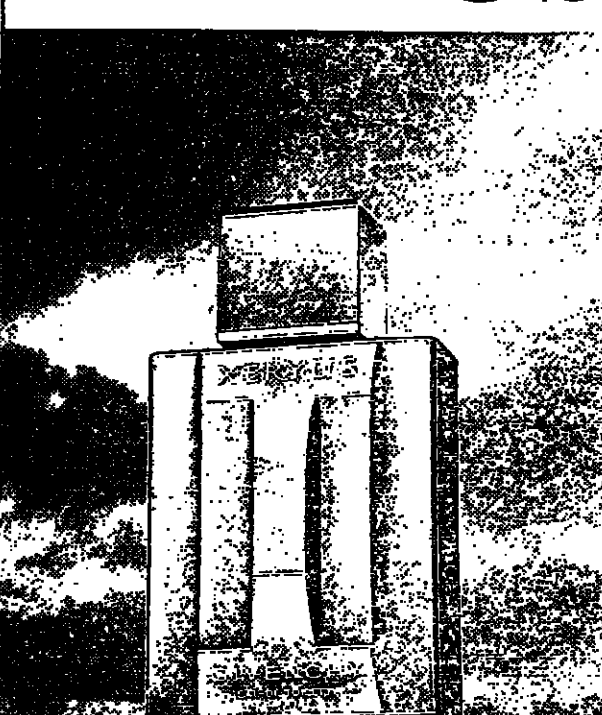
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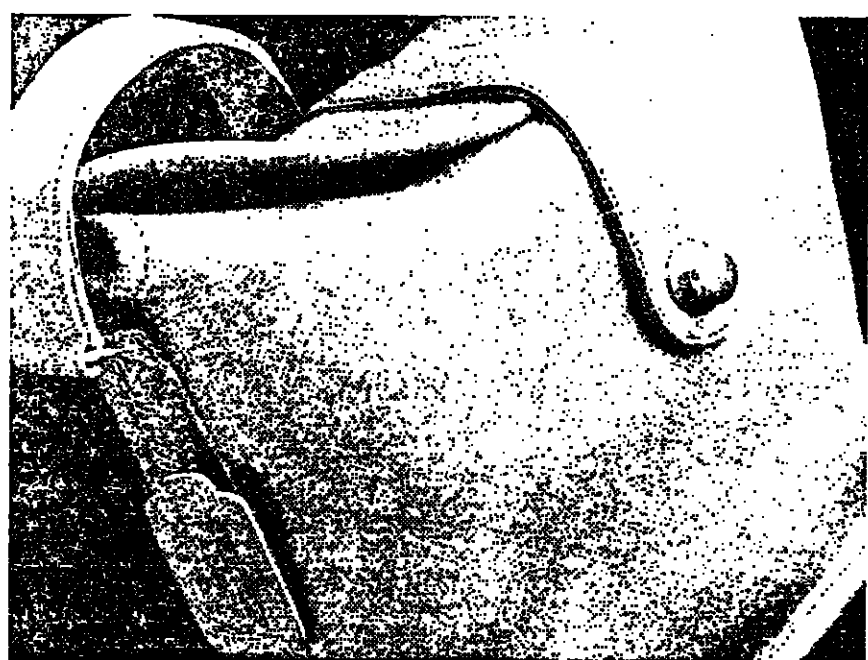
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CINEMA

Shooting an actor acting the shooter

How about this for a prophetic dress rehearsal? In the film *Postcards from the Edge* (opening in Britain next month) Simon Callow plays the part of an English director named Simon, making his first film in America. A year after completing that Mike Nichols film in Hollywood, Callow was in Willieville, Texas, doing it for real. But the flamboyant, archetypal film director he created for the screen has little in common with the gravitas of the figure that occupies the director's chair in Willieville.

That the offer to direct his first film should have come from the United States was almost inevitable. Though Callow's accomplishments are less visible there (Equity prohibits him from acting on the American stage), his work is more highly prized than in Britain. His biography of Charles Langton, dismissed by the editor of one British paper as too boring and badly written to be considered for serialisation, was given a five-page review in *The New Yorker*. His performance in the six-hour *Faust* at the Lyric, Hammersmith, received tepid notices in England, but a feverishly enthusiastic review in *The New York Times*.

Callow was the first actor of his generation to re-cast himself, with equal success, as a director and writer. Precocity, strong opinions, the breezy public manner: these characteristics have always provoked extreme reactions. People either love Callow or loathe him, and he is aware of it.

Luckily, one of his most loyal admirers is the film producer Ismail Merchant, who gave Callow his first screen role (as the Reverend Beebe in *A Room with a View*), and now the opportunity to direct his first film. Unable to finance this film in any other way ("We have letters of rejection which amount to a total exposure of the state of mind of people who finance films," says Callow), Merchant broke the film producer's cardinal rule by putting up the bulk of the money himself. "I wanted Simon for this project," says Merchant, "because the material is so theatrical, outlandish, operatic even, that it could so easily go wrong in every direction without someone of his capabilities."

The project is the Carson McCullers novella, *The Ballad of Sad Cafe*. It is an extreme and freakish love story of a giantess (Vanessa Redgrave) who falls in love with a hunchbacked dwarf

Simon Callow, on the set of his first film as director, is interviewed by Anna Kythreotis

(Cork Hubbard) who does not return her love but instead loves the man (Keith Carradine) who loved the giantess who had rejected him.

"The literary form of this is, to steal a term from modern South American writers, magic realism," explains Callow, lighting a fresh cigarette from the butt of the last. "The more I read of what McCullers had to say about it the more I understood, as I believe, that it was a sort of harsh, strange fairy story. It has the element of poetic feeling that is exactly what I would have wanted to bring to the screen had I chosen a subject myself."

He obeyed the Merchant imperative "like one accepts events in a

"I have no interest in final solutions: the actors take over the imaginative baton..."

dream. I'm what you might call a passive extrovert. I almost never go out to get anything; things have unbelievably luckily just come to me." The film came at a time when Callow began to notice that his theatre work was tending dangerously towards the cinematic. "I was trying to achieve something of the speed and change of focus that a film offers. The theatre should never be a medium for the director's self-expression, but it can be, and perhaps should be, in a film."

He arrived on the set "a complete and blushing virgin". His ability to cope with the dramatic elements was never in doubt, but his ease at picking up the language and the technical aspects of film-making amazed all. "Complete paralysis" is how Callow describes his reaction to his first moment on the set. "Then I

ceased to feel any anxiety at all. I knew that I'd have to conduct my education in public, as usual, and make a fool of myself."

Callow, an *enfant terrible* of the fringe, embraced gay literature and theatre long before it became fashionable to do so. His major theatrical break came when he created a contentious portrayal of Mozart in Peter Shaffer's *Amadeus* for the National Theatre.

Callow then offended the British theatrical establishment with his book, *Being an Actor*. His final chapter, the "Manifesto", attacked the hegemony of directors and advocated a radical re-assessment of their function. By taking on the auteur's medium, Callow knows he is putting his head in a noose.

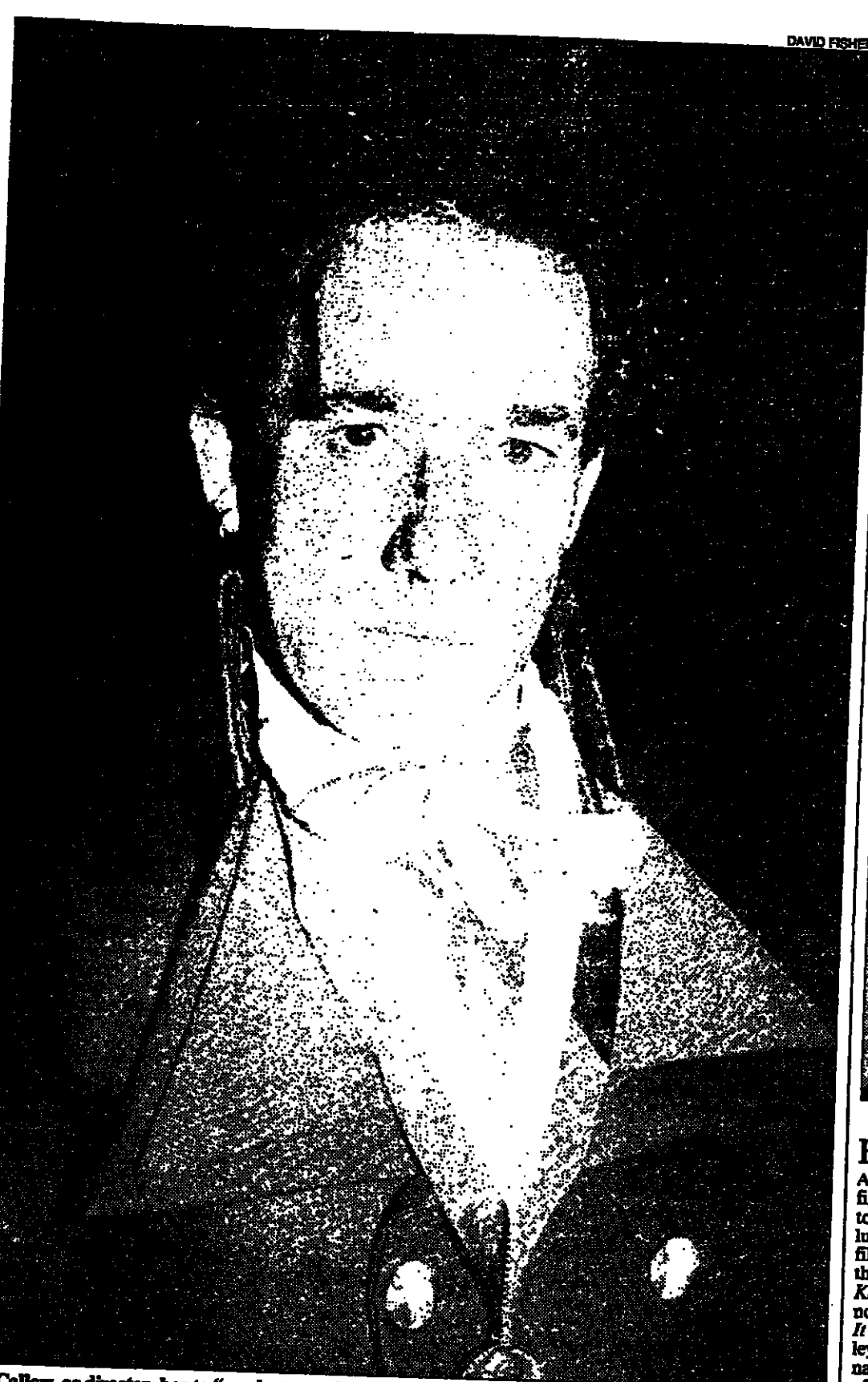
"I don't take anything back — but I'm a different person. The person who wrote that Manifesto was absolutely right, and whenever I direct a play in the theatre I always take a copy and say 'Look, this is what I wrote and I think he's right, and I am as likely to offend against what he says in that as anybody else, so if I do, shout at me.' And they do."

Not in Willieville, they don't. Scratch anyone on the set and they bleed praise to the point of haemorrhage. "Most directors lack knowledge and experience of acting — that is the most neglected aspect," says Rod Steiger. "Callow is imaginative, co-operative, compassionate, helpful, open to suggestions and advice — and without any ego problem. I'd work with him anytime."

For the film, Callow replaced his Manifesto with a three-page document that examined the nature of the work. "My belief is that the principal job of a director is to elucidate the vision of the work, to keep it ever present in peoples' minds. Once you do that, directing, except in the most technical sense, becomes almost redundant."

"I have no interest in imposing final solutions. I'm only interested in proposing the general intention of the piece and its world, and then plugging my collaborators into it. Then the actors take over the imaginative baton and go further than you'd imagined. The thing that I would most like to have said of me is that I was a catalyst."

At the close of the film Callow was given the clapper-board, the traditional tribute of the camera crew to a director who has earned their respect. The State of Texas gave him honorary citizenship, though he still has to pay his speeding fines.



Callow, as director, has to "conduct my education in public, as usual, and make a fool of myself"

Traveller on his own 'trane

Jan Garbarek, jazz saxophonist now in Britain, talks to Clive Davis

Jan Garbarek describes his first encounter, almost 30 years ago, with the sound of John Coltrane: "Every morning when I got dressed, brushed my teeth or had breakfast, he was there in the background." Garbarek was 14 at the time. He recalls that he had little interest in jazz or any form of music for that matter, until the moment he heard Coltrane playing "Countdown" on the radio.

Exhilarated by the tenor player's performance, Garbarek obtained a copy of the record, listening to it every day before going to school. The next step was to buy his own saxophone. He taught himself largely by listening to albums. He was, he says, unaware of the vast complexity of Coltrane's vocabulary, what struck him most was the impression of spontaneity. It was probably just as well that the

young Garbarek did not know how great a challenge he was setting himself. He made fast progress: after a year he was leading a quartet — modelled on Coltrane's — at Norway's amateur jazz championships.

Since then he has developed his own style. With his sparse, leaning tone and his forays into traditional folk themes, he has become the most distinctive of European saxophonists.

His minimalist approach is not to everybody's taste. He is not the kind of player who will set concert halls alight with choruses of

"Now's the Time" or "In a Sentimental Mood". Understatement is the key to his music and he sometimes drifts perilously close to emollient mood music.

The static, precisely controlled ambience of his concerts is certainly a long way from the unpredictability of his early period. "In the good old Sixties," he says, "we used to go on stage and just play. Nothing was pre-arranged. After a while I found that it was sounding the same. Total freedom seems to be a very limited thing, I didn't feel free with the freedom."

On his new album, *I Took Up the Runes*, Garbarek has recruited the "African Parisian" Manu Katché, a drummer who had previously worked with Robbie Robertson and Peter Gabriel. To some listeners, Katché's style is too reminiscent of rock music. Garbarek disagrees; he enjoys hearing a drummer who, he says, uses all the resources of the kit.

Unlike many of his contemporaries, Garbarek looks beyond the routines of pure improvisation. His output has included scores for stage productions of Ibsen, and a recording inspired by

the work of the poet Tomas Tranströmer. He also makes a habit of hunting down folk songs, often visiting the archives of Oslo University to research material.

Pianist Keith Jarrett and Garbarek have worked together in the past; for example, on the orchestral composition "Luminescence". Is there any chance of a reunion? Garbarek thinks it unlikely.

He notes that Jarrett has gravitated towards recordings of Bach and re-workings of jazz evergreens with his "Standards" trio. "If you see what Keith is doing and what I am doing, it would not be very logical."

Jan Garbarek is at the Town & Country, London NW5 (071-284 0303) tonight and the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester (061-273 4504) on Thursday

BRIEFING

To dance, sign here

AMERICAN Ballet Theatre has told its dancers that unless they agree to new contracts by today, the company will be disbanded. The two sides are in dispute over touring allowances and a proposal that members of the corps de ballet should no longer be entitled to single rooms when on the road. Artistic director Jane Hermann says the principal dancers have all signed new contracts and she cannot believe the dancers would close down the company on such a point. The dancers' union is angry because the management issued its ultimatum direct to the dancers without going through the negotiating machinery.

All his own work

THE pianist John Ogdon's musical eccentricity and his tortured personal life have tended to eclipse the fact that he was, in his time, a considerable composer in his own right. A recital at London's Blackheath Concert Halls on Sunday should redress the imbalance in our memory of him. Works written when he was one of the central figures of the Manchester New Music Group will be played, together with later compositions such as his *Sonata* for unaccompanied flute, his *25 Preludes* for piano, and his "American" piano sonata written for his wife, Brenda Lucas, one of the evening's pianists.



John Ogdon: also a composer

Homegrown

AFTER years of neglect, British film-makers are finally waking up to the wealth of grisly material lurking in the country's criminal files. Following his success with the lives and murders of *The Kray*s, the director Peter Medak is now at the helm of *Let Him Have It* — an examination of the Bentley-Craig case which held the nation in thrall during the winter of 1952. Craig, aged 16, killed a policeman after being caught breaking into a confectionery warehouse in Croydon; but it was 19-year-old Bentley, his mentally defective accomplice, who was old enough to be executed. Two screen newcomers, Christopher Eccleston and Paul Reynolds, take the leading roles.

Last chance...

TOM Cairns' Greenwich production of *Miss Julie* relies confidently on physical naturalism and psychological realism, as well as on a fresh translation by Helen Cooper. As Strindberg's would-be seductress, Lesley Manville gives a credible, touching interpretation, made the more poignant by her physical frailty. In Barry Lynch's footman, Jean, she has a sturdy partner. An impressive London debut for Cairns, the show closes on Saturday at Greenwich Theatre (081-858 7755).



Garbarek: distinctive European

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Limited appeal of musical superlatives

LAST week revealed one of the more perverse phenomena of London's concert life: how a programme of exceptional interest played by an orchestra of reliable quality can all but empty a hall. The Chamber Orchestra of Europe was hardest hit. The first of its four concerts with Gennadi Rozhdestvensky at the Barbican offered Britten and Stravinsky rarities, along with more popular works. The public did not buy it.

Rozhdestvensky brings out the best in this orchestra. The maestro dislikes lengthy rehearsal: the sections work diligently among themselves to make up the shortfall; Rozhdestvensky twinkles at them at the right musical and psychological moment, and the result is transfixing. Sel-

dom are Britten's *Frank Bridge Variations* played with such vibrant string texture; seldom do Stravinsky's Symphonies of Wind Instruments sound so mordantly witty. The reason for being there, though, was to hear Philip Langridge sing Britten's early *Quatre chansons françaises* and, joined by Yvonne Kenny and Stephen Varcoe, to perform Stravinsky's complete *Pulcinella*, songs and all. Britten wrote his first song-cycle when he was 15, and it has surfaced comparatively recently from the Britten estate, with a debut at Snape ten years ago, with sporadic performances since, and with a recording made last year. The word-setting responds more to the scents and sounds of Verlaine and Hugo than to

the niceties of linguistic inflection. But so cunningly do the orchestra's own soloists duet with the voice amid extraordinarily confident orchestration, that the listener is struck only by the passion of the composer's own responses.

Stravinsky's game, on the other hand, was to encourage a sense of distance. The *trompe l'oeil* effect of his reworkings of Pergolesi in short, sparsely scored orchestral movements was sharply delineated in all its droll melancholy.

Plenty of seats were spare, too, in the Festival Hall for an ingenious BBC Symphony Orchestra programme focusing on music for the oboe by Mozart and Bruno Maderna. More should have been there to hear Maurice Bourge go a long way towards proving, in a

performance of deft ornamentation and musical clarity, that the oboe was the great original, preceding the flute in Mozart's two conceptions of this same work.

The flute may have dominated Bruno Maderna's writing in the 1950s, but the oboe took over in his final years, and the Third Concerto seems to sum up many of his preoccupations as a composer. The tug between "composed" and "spontaneous" music reaches its apotheosis in what is a substantially aleatory score, with chance playing as large a part as any orchestral instrument on stage.

Lothar Zagrosek kept pretty tight control of the concerto's unfolding. The plan of action set out in Maderna's own recorded performance was by

and large followed, with the oboe's own open cadenza being stabilised by a free, filigree of orchestral pedal. Bourge, as soloist, would then dare his colleagues to imitate or counter his brittle fragments of melody.

The fun really started after a brief explosive tutti, when a long oboe solo (at times teasing the reed only) was supported and interrupted by changing orchestra groups. Bourge inflicted his performance throughout towards mischief and artifice.

The concert had begun with Stockhausen's curiously unjubilant *Jubilee*, a 20-minute ritual of sound waves passing from left to right in an austere, almost chorale-like formula through an orchestra layered and disposed by means of register.

The item which acted as counterbalance and bait, Brahms's Third Symphony, was in fact an unremarkable performance, as was Janice Graham's uneasy rendering of Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in a similarly challenging programme earlier in the week by the Young Musicians Symphony Orchestra. That evening had started with the premiere of *The Music of Dawn* by David Matthews. A painting by Cecil Collins with the same title had inspired Matthews to write a tone poem for larger forces than his wont, and to do so with energy and assurance. With its scrapping ebb and flow of percussion, and its gradual intensification, the first part evoked both Britten and Debussy. The latter and more substantial part, though, skill-

BEST MUSICAL

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LYRIC THEATRE



Masculine women, operatic men

THEATRE

Y a Otra Cosa, Mariposa/ Peter and the Captain
Battersea Arts Centre

ROBERT Delamere's production of *When Five Years Pass*, *Mariposa*, a surrealistic romance with death, won a Fringe First at Edinburgh last year, and the Ragazzi Theatre Company he helped to found has since presented other Spanish pieces, including three more *Mariposa*. Now his company extends its range to Latin America, introducing the work of the Argentinian dramatist Susana Torres Molina, born in 1946, and Mario Benedetti, a generation older, from Uruguay. The first presents a woman's view of male sexual bravado; the second a less successful confrontation between two men, a political prisoner and his torturer.

The title of Molina's play, *Y a Otra Cosa*, translates as *There's Another Thing*, *Butterfly* but it has the cheeky rhythm of "See You Later, Alligator", suggesting the phrase comes from some pop song over there. In five scenes spanning the rise and fall of male lust, from boyhood to park bench, four friends boast of their erotic prowess and thereby reveal a contemptuous, scared or just shabby attitude towards the other sex.

The joshing is shrewdly observed, particularly in the first two scenes, but what gives the play its originality is that the four males are played by actresses. Four cost stands are hung with false jumpers, leather jackets, suits and old men's hats which the women don and discard as the play proceeds, slicking back their hair

but making no attempt to flatten what Peter n' Dud enjoy calling their "busty substances". A new dimension is certainly added to a boyhood game when actresses portray a quartet of gum-chewing dirty-mouthed urchins turning their backs on the audience to compare the length of their parts. After the first disorienting surprise the gain from this device is actually rather small, and not only because the women are more adept at conveying the coarse rough and tumble in the wasteground and the edginess of youths at a dance hall than when their characters have matured, if that is the word, into adults. The cross-dressing adds no extra shock to the antics with an inflatable doll or the rage at "infatigable bitchiness".

As a theatrical trick it is still intriguing, and the performers avoid all the "arms akimbo" strutting that makes Principal Boys such a pain. Gailen Manuel's over-hungry Fatso is engagingly real and truthful.

The Benedetti companion-piece, *Peter and the Captain*, also directed by Delamere, advances the familiar notion of the bond between inquisitor and victim but adds the cosy suggestion that the torturer is the weaker of the two. It is by way of his children's possible suffering that the final breakdown arrives, not the other way round. Well, perhaps; but the character of the Captain (Mark Carlisle) is too glibly developed to be persuasive and Peter's endurance seems improbable outside the confines of opera. That said, the gaunt, starved intensity of Rufus Sewell's performance is a powerful piece of acting, combining ferocity and gallows humour with a sureness of control that will make him an heroic young Fool in *King Lear*.

JEREMY KINGSTON



Actresses play dirty-mouthed urchins: Elizabeth Berrington (top) and Cate Witherby in Molina's *Y a Otra Cosa, Mariposa*

brilliant, too, of Sandra Madgwick to take a role created for Dame Alicia, in Ashton's *Les Rendezvous*, and then, thanks to her amazing technique and her sense of music, to dance it probably better than anyone has done since Markova herself.

The ensemble dances in *Rendezvous* came from the Royal Ballet School, an apt reminder that Markova is a great teacher, who has devoted the last quarter of a century, since she stopped performing, to handing on the tradition which she first absorbed as a 14-year-old prodigy in Diaghilev's company.

Nobody, I think, can ever have made more of *The Nutcracker* than did Markova and her long-time partner, Anton Dolin. Andria Hall, who danced it at the gala, was fortunate indeed to have been coached by the great lady.

George Balanchine, Markova's first choreographer, was represented by Merrill Ashley and Adam Liders from New York City Ballet in a duet from *Charm*, never seen here before.

Fittingly for this special occasion, Nina Ananiashvili and Alexei Fadeychev showed that the pas de deux from *Don Quixote* can be done stylishly as well as brilliantly. Restrictions of space make it impossible to mention all the performers, musicians and colleagues who came to pay their respects. The programme included further reminders of Markova's career, with *Le Spectre de la Rose* and extracts from *Giselle* and *Swan Lake*: great ballets which she illuminated. Also included, more poignantly, was Dolin's pretty *Pas de Quatre*, one of the little party pieces which she could make look marvellous. Many present must have seen her in their minds' eye, still soaring miraculously across the stage, still finding absolute perfection of shape, nuance and timing in every move, and still effortlessly exuding the charm with which nature blessed her.

JOHN PERCIVAL



Charm: Markova in 1953

DANCE

Alicia Markova
80th Birthday Gala
Sadler's Wells

HARDLY any of the dancers taking part in this performance to honour Dame Alicia Markova on her 80th birthday can have seen her dance. But if they had wanted eyewitness accounts, the house was full of people who had watched her many times or even danced with her. They could vouch that for virtuosity, style, feeling and wit there were few to touch her, and certainly nobody to surpass her in the roles that she made her own.

How clever, then, of Carla Fracci to contribute something quite different: three solos after Isadora Duncan in which, in turn, she was full of tragedy to a Beethoven adagio, poignantly touching to "Ave Maria" and exultantly stirring to the Internationale. How

vanced in *Winnie Mandela* and the *Football Club* came from a black female journalist who pointed out that any half-way articulate "activist" who emerges as spokesman for the aspirations of black South Africa is promptly whisked off to jail. Those who are left are effectively leaderless, obeying not wise counsel but some instinctive impulse to root out those weaker than themselves and punish them individually for the general impotence.

John Carlin's documentary contained much testimony of arbitrary punishment: tales of near-extinction at the hands of those whom they had regarded as friends. The wonder was that they kept returning for more. In a shed behind Mrs Mandela's house at 8115, Orlando West, Soweto, a "disciplinary committee" sat in judgement of those who were said to have betrayed the club's members

to the police. Execution was summary and brutal, typically consisting of a lashing with that redolent symbol of white oppression, the sjambok. One was forcibly reminded of the gamiest scene in Wilbur Smith's latest published fantasy about South Africa, in which the whip is wielded by a vengeful harpy with (most improbably) bare breasts.

Through her lawyers, Mrs Mandela declined to be interviewed for this grimly persuasive programme, which sought to determine her direct involvement in these and related crimes for which she will be tried next February. But the biggest missed opportunity was the failure to canvass the ethnic minority on the damage that this brouhaha has done to the reputation of the ANC. White South Africans to the right of Genghis Khan must be over the moon, as we used to say in the world of football. Those to

MARTIN CROPPER

RADIO

Winnie Mandela and the Football Club
BBC Radio 4

FOUR years ago, the wife of Nelson Mandela delivered a notorious speech which advocated, among other things, that traitors to the cause of the ANC should have petrol-filled tyres jammed over their shoulders and then be turned into human barbecues. "With our necklaces" was a phrase much repeated by the Mandelas, who gleefully used it to demonstrate the unacceptability of future black rule. This was not a matter of a few dispensable "terrs" being murdered by their own kind, but a timely lesson in the true nature of tribal politics.

The most cogent comment ad-

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 24

CLERISKY
(a) A group of scholars, a Yahoo's term for intellectuals, from the NT Greek *klēros* a lot (referring to the ministry) chosen by lot. "Once inside a compound, an ardent became part of a clerisy, to use an old term for an intelligent but clerical presumption."

WINZES
(b) A shaft or passage between two levels of a mine, dialect from *wink* Under The Volcano. "The shop, adjacent to the Palace, but divided from it by the breadth of a steep narrow street descending as a winze, was opening early."

LENTICULAR
(c) Shaped like a lens or double convex lens, from the diminutive of the Latin *lens* a lens. "The carper, a late Japsenati pattern of compact circles in lenticular overly, rusty orange."

CORRELLA
(d) New British slang for £1,000. If £500 is a monkey, a usage dating to the middle of the 19th century, by verbal inflation a gorilla must be £1,000. "Not that the ancients are very grown-up: £25,000 is enthusiastically referred to by the Charles Dickens as 25 gorillas."

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent



Larsen - Chandler, Foreign & Colonial Chess, 1987/88. How did White force a swift mate? Solution tomorrow. Top Grandmasters at this year's Hastings Premier include: Spassky, Ljubojevic, Gurevich and Sax. (Further information: 0424 442500) Solution to yesterday's position: 1. Rf7! 2. Rf2! 3. Rf3! 4. Rf4! 5. Rf5! 6. Rf6! 7. Rf7! 8. Rf8! 9. Rf9! 10. Rf0! 11. Rf1! 12. Rf2! 13. Rf3! 14. Rf4! 15. Rf5! 16. Rf6! 17. Rf7! 18. Rf8! 19. Rf9! 20. Rf0! 21. Rf1! 22. Rf2! 23. Rf3! 24. Rf4! 25. Rf5! 26. Rf6! 27. Rf7! 28. Rf8! 29. Rf9! 30. Rf0! 31. Rf1! 32. Rf2! 33. Rf3! 34. Rf4! 35. Rf5! 36. Rf6! 37. Rf7! 38. Rf8! 39. Rf9! 40. Rf0! 41. Rf1! 42. Rf2! 43. Rf3! 44. Rf4! 45. Rf5! 46. Rf6! 47. Rf7! 48. Rf8! 49. Rf9! 50. Rf0! 51. Rf1! 52. Rf2! 53. Rf3! 54. Rf4! 55. Rf5! 56. Rf6! 57. Rf7! 58. Rf8! 59. Rf9! 60. Rf0! 61. Rf1! 62. Rf2! 63. Rf3! 64. Rf4! 65. Rf5! 66. Rf6! 67. Rf7! 68. Rf8! 69. Rf9! 70. Rf0! 71. Rf1! 72. Rf2! 73. Rf3! 74. Rf4! 75. Rf5! 76. Rf6! 77. Rf7! 78. Rf8! 79. Rf9! 80. Rf0! 81. Rf1! 82. Rf2! 83. Rf3! 84. Rf4! 85. Rf5! 86. Rf6! 87. Rf7! 88. Rf8! 89. Rf9! 90. Rf0! 91. Rf1! 92. Rf2! 93. Rf3! 94. Rf4! 95. Rf5! 96. Rf6! 97. Rf7! 98. Rf8! 99. Rf9! 100. Rf0! 101. Rf1! 102. Rf2! 103. Rf3! 104. Rf4! 105. Rf5! 106. Rf6! 107. Rf7! 108. Rf8! 109. Rf9! 110. Rf0! 111. Rf1! 112. Rf2! 113. Rf3! 114. Rf4! 115. Rf5! 116. Rf6! 117. Rf7! 118. Rf8! 119. Rf9! 120. Rf0! 121. Rf1! 122. Rf2! 123. Rf3! 124. Rf4! 125. Rf5! 126. Rf6! 127. Rf7! 128. Rf8! 129. Rf9! 130. Rf0! 131. Rf1! 132. Rf2! 133. Rf3! 134. Rf4! 135. Rf5! 136. Rf6! 137. Rf7! 138. Rf8! 139. Rf9! 140. Rf0! 141. Rf1! 142. Rf2! 143. Rf3! 144. Rf4! 145. Rf5! 146. Rf6! 147. Rf7! 148. Rf8! 149. Rf9! 150. Rf0! 151. Rf1! 152. Rf2! 153. Rf3! 154. Rf4! 155. Rf5! 156. Rf6! 157. Rf7! 158. Rf8! 159. Rf9! 160. Rf0! 161. Rf1! 162. Rf2! 163. Rf3! 164. Rf4! 165. Rf5! 166. Rf6! 167. Rf7! 168. Rf8! 169. Rf9! 170. Rf0! 171. Rf1! 172. Rf2! 173. Rf3! 174. Rf4! 175. Rf5! 176. Rf6! 177. Rf7! 178. Rf8! 179. Rf9! 180. Rf0! 181. Rf1! 182. Rf2! 183. 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BBC 1

6.00 CeeFax
6.30 BBC Breakfast News with Nicholas Witchell and Jill Dando
8.50 Daytime UK 9.00 News, regional news and weather 9.05 Brainwave. With Andy Craig 9.25 Dish of the Day. Cookery hints from Rosemary Moon 9.30 People Today. Adrian Mills and Dab Jones report on the lives of people across Britain 10.00 News, regional news and weather 10.05 Playdays (r) 10.25 Barney. Cartoon (r) 10.35 People Today. Interview with Health UK. Martin Lewis looks at immunisation 11.00 News, regional news and weather 11.05 Killy. Robert Killy-Silk hosts a discussion on teenage rebellion 11.45 Before Noon. Another Brainwave winner is revealed 12.00 News, regional news and weather 12.05 Rosemary Craig's Diet and Fitness Club 12.20 Sports Today 12.55 Regional news and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton
1.30 Newsnight (CeeFax)
1.50 Going for Gold. Henry Kelly hosts the EuroQuiz
2.15 Film: Hancock (1990). A close encounter with a crashed UFO leads two astronauts (Daren McGavin and Robert Vaughn) on to the trail of a government cover-up. Routine sci-fi thriller, directed by James L. Conway
9.50 Children's BBC: Forget-Me-Not Farm 4.05 The Chipmunks 4.20 Happy Families
4.35 Now That: Children of the Caves. CHOICE: An archaeological series for children starts at a cave near Tenby in west Wales, where they are excavating a settlement from the Stone Age. Two local children from the Stone Age, Tony Gregory and Paul Berwick, meet the director of the dig and look over the artefacts. Himself an enthusiastic guide and seasoned television presenter, Paul is an artist, on hand to draw the site as it might have been 12,000 years ago.

But the main novelty of the format is to introduce two more youngsters as "time children" dressed in the clothes of the period, and go through the dig notes to underline differences between now and then, with the Stone Age children revealing their ignorance of mathematics, watches, sandwiches and chocolate. It is a friendly show which wears its knowledge lightly

5.00 Newsround
5.10 Grange Hill (CeeFax) (r)
5.35 Neighbours (CeeFax) (r). Northern Ireland Sportsweek. 5.40 Inside Uster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sessions and Anna Ford. Weather
6.30 Regional news magazines
6.50 Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 Trivial Pursuit. Rory McGrath hosts the board-game quiz (CeeFax)
7.30 EastEnders (CeeFax)
8.00 The Good Life. Benji Savinets comedy of suburban self-sufficiency, starring Richard Briers, Felicity Kendal, Paul Eddington and Penelope Keith (r) (CeeFax)
8.30 A Question of Sport. Ian Botham is joined by Liverpool defender Glen Hysen and Olympic swimmer Sharon Davies. Bill Beaumont's team members are the world snooker champion Stephen Hendry and Scotland's rugby union captain David Sole. David Coleman puts the questions (CeeFax)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martin Lewis. Regional news and weather
9.30 Clive James Meets Ronald Reagan
 CHOICE: This encounter between the greatest living Australian and the only man to make it from 6 moves to the White House was not available for previewing, but it promises much. On the face of it, Rome might give difficulty to the 50 minutes, given that he was apparently unable to say anything as president that had not been written for him and fed into the autocue. The indications are that James will go easy on the old guy and stick with safe subjects, such as Mrs Thatcher. The show was recorded a week before the Conservative leadership battle but you can still expect



Encounter: Reagan (left) and James (8.30pm)

a glowing Reagan tribute to his old friend. The interview also covers the assassination attempt which threatened to end the Reagan presidency only three months after it had started. The great communicator's memory of the incident turns out to be rather different from the subsequent Iran-Contra affair. Wales. Week in Wales Out. 10.00-10.50 Clive James Meets Ronald Reagan
10.20 From the Heart of the World: The Elder Brothers' Warning. CHOICE: An ample documentary from northern Columbia offers a rare glimpse of the indigenous Kogi tribe, descendants of a civilisation that went into hiding 400 years ago and has hardly been seen since, certainly not on television. Thanks to an intermediary, the producer Alan Ereira was able to take a camera crew to the Kogi mountain retreat and make first-hand contact with a culture that owes nothing to the 20th century. Apart, that, is for a concern about the environment, articulated by the Kogi priests who accuse the rest of us of having brought the world to the edge of destruction. As if to confirm, Ereira shows grave robbers on another part of the mountain hoping to find the gold that will make their fortune. The price of Kogi co-operation is a certain distancing, with the words being spoken by British actors, a reference about their family life. But there is much fascinating material. Wales: 10.50-12.00am From the Heart of the World 11.50 Weather

ITV LONDON

6.00 TV-am
9.25 Newsday. Alastair Devell hosts the music quiz 9.55 Thames News and weather
10.00 The Time, The Place. John Stapleton hosts the topical discussion show which allows a studio audience to air their views
10.40 This Morning. Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley offer advice on money and legal matters, with the help of financial expert Anne Ashworth. Maggie Philbin presents the Checkout slot, and Susan Jay has more tips on how to make the most of retirement. Includes 10.55 ITN News, 11.55 Thames News and weather
12.05 Rod, Jane & Freddy. The musical trio sing about shapes
12.25 Home and Away (See 6pm for details) 12.55 Thames News and weather
1.00 News with John Suchet (Weather)
1.20 With You Were Here. Another chance to see yesterday's edition of the snappy news show, with reports from John Carter on Budapest and Anne Rice on Bath (r)
1.50 A Country Practice. Australian soap set in a community health clinic
2.20 Take The High Road. Drama from the highland village of Glendochan
2.50 Talkabout. Andrew O'Connor hosts the game for quick-thinking couples with the gift of the gab 3.15 News
3.25 Families. 30-continental soap linking the national with the local of England
3.55 Children's ITV. Half-hour of children's adventures with the daydreaming pig 4.10 The Dreamstone. Fantasy cartoon series 4.35 Sylvester. Animated fun with the cat and the canary (r)
4.40 Children's Ward. Drama set in the children's ward of a hospital (Oracle)
5.10 Blockbusters. The fast-moving quiz for teenagers hosted by Bob Holness

5.40 News at 5.40 with Fiona Armstrong. Weather
5.55 Thames Help. Jackie Spredley reports on the Hyde Vale Children's Nursery
6.00 Home and Away (r) 6.30 Thames News and weather
7.00 Emmerdale. Amos is shocked by a rumour about The Woolpack (Oracle)
7.30 Thames Reports: Poll Tax Review. Who will benefit from the promised revision of the community charge?
8.00 The Bill. Just for a Moment. Wpc Delta (Seeta Indran) is taken hostage when a prisoner is left unattended. (Oracle)
8.30 Strike It Lucky. Join Michael Barrymore to find out who will win tonight's £3,000 jackpot
9.00 Boot. Best Left Buried. Crawford Boot Security receives unwanted publicity over sabotage at a building site, and Rocky (Neil Morrissey) finds himself attracted to a female snooker player. Starring Michael Elphick and David Daker (Oracle)
10.00 News with Alastair Burnet and Trevor McDonald (Weather) 10.30 Thames News and weather
10.40 First Tuesday
 CHOICE: Paul Sykes from Wakefield was good enough to fight for the British heavyweight boxing championship, and to take an Open University degree, and his autobiography won an Arthur Koestler literary award. But his life has been a shambles. He has spent nearly half of his 46 years in prison and he has a wild and violent temperament which has often made him high intelligence count for nothing. Nick Lord's profile follows Sykes through his latest prison sentence and his attempts yet again to build a stable life outside. The signs are not promising. Within three months he is back in trouble. A specialist in racing inductive, a psychiatrist, Al Garrett in a manner if not necessarily in substance, Sykes is a notch



Literary heavyweight: Paul Sykes (10.40pm)

11.40 Prisoner. Cell Block H
12.30am The New Avengers. The world's greatest assassin consorts himself in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower (r)
1.30 Video View. Presented by Manilla Frostip. Includes an interview with actor Rutger Hauer, good news for fans of Grease, Garbo, and the latest video to rent and buy
2.00 World Chess. Raymond Keene examines the performance of the English team in the 28th Chess Olympiad. Plus the latest news on the battle for the world title between Kasparov and Karpis
2.15 60 Minutes. The topical American news magazine
3.10 Donahue. Phil Donahue talks to the veteran rock star Phil Collins
4.00 Entertainment UK
5.00 ITN Morning News with Brenda Rowe. Ends at 6.00

BBC 2

8.00 News
8.15 Westminster. Roundup of business from the Lords and Commons
9.00 Sportz Crazy. A look at some bizarre Australian sports (r)
9.40 Film: Up in Mabel's Room (1944, b/w). Routine bedroom farce starring Marjorie Reynolds and Robert O'Keefe. A young professor has to retrieve some incriminating evidence from a former girlfriend's room. Directed by Allan Dwan
11.00 After Hours. Magazine programme which looks at the latest trends in America. Includes a feature on the pop band Duran Duran
11.15 Chris Sieve's Summer Season. Penny Hedge. Chris Sieve gets to the bottom of an ancient ceremony at the fish market in Whitby, Yorkshire (r). Northern Ireland: 11.15-11.35 Ulster in Focus
11.25 The Pop Shop. Diane Kemp finds out why the popstar is making a comeback in Britain (r)
11.55 The Breaking. How a young Arab station is broken in (r)
12.05 Mosaic. Two films of which the first, Black, traces the history of racism in Britain. Followed at 12.55 by Rascals, a 16-minute film in which young black people talk about their experiences (r) 1.20 Greenpeace (r)
1.35 See Hear (r)

2.00 News and weather, followed by Where Were You on the Day War Broke Out? A review of the 24 hours preceding the start of the second world war at midnight on Sunday September 3, 1939 (r)
2.50 Holiday Outings. Philip Schofield investigates a multi-activity holiday in the French Alps (r)
3.00 News and weather, followed by Westminster Live. The day's business in the Lords and Commons, including prime minister's question time 3.50 News and weather. Regional news and weather
4.00 Catchword. Paul Cola hosts the word game
4.30 Behind the Headlines. With Robert Robinson. Lloyd Grossman and guests
5.00 Advice Shop. Out in the Country. A special edition from Somerset reports on the spread into the countryside of traditionally inner-city problems such as homelessness and unemployment
5.30 The Travel Show Guides. Normandy. (CeeFax) (r)
6.00 Film: Say Goodbye to 1955. Richard Egan, Anthony Quinn and Jeffrey Hunter star in a dual costume drama about the Spanish conquistadors' expedition from Mexico to annex California, and its search for the seven cities. Directed by Robert D. Webb
7.40 Prisoners of Conscience. Claire Rayner relates the first of two stories about people imprisoned for their beliefs

7.45 Assignment: Korea - Making Up Is Hard To Do. After the reunification of Germany, North and South Korea are contemplating a similar path. Veteran Asia-watcher Brian Barron reports from the staunchly pro-Western society in the south and the communist regime in the north
8.30 Food and Drink. Antony Worrall-Thompson, chef at London's 180 Queensgate, cooks up a feast: Spanish wines come under the scrutiny of Oz Clarke; and ideas for Christmas desserts from France
9.00 Twin Peaks. The murky waters of David Lynch's mysterious soap remain. Agent Cooper (Kyle MacLachlan) goes undercover at One-Eyed Jack's, and Dr Jacoby (Russ Tamblyn) gets a call from beyond the grave. (CeeFax)
9.50 The Sentence. The often revealing documentary "series" filmed at Glen Parva Young Offenders Institution in Leicestershire
10.20 25th Useful Ideas from Japan. Traditions, Japanese packaging
10.30 Newsnight. Jeremy Paxton
11.15 The Last Show. A painting by Jasper Johns recently fetched \$17million at auction. Matthew Collings finds out why 11.55 Weather
12.00 Prisoners of Conscience. Claire Rayner with the second of tonight's portraits
12.05am Behind the Headlines (r). Ends at 12.40

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Art of Landscape. Images set to music to provide a soothing start to the day
6.20 Business Daily
6.30 The Channel 4 Daily, including at 7.55 and 8.35 Early Bird for children
9.25 Viewing Ahead. Schools. Preview, starting with 9.30 Picture Post 9.47 Good Health 10.03 Middle English 10.20 Living and Growing 10.35 Design and Technology 10.53 Animals in Action 11.14 How We Used To Live 11.25 The Manufactured Landscape
12.00 The Parliament Programme. Sue Cameron with an account of events in both houses
12.30 Business Daily. Susannah Simons presents the lunchtime edition of the business and financial news series
1.00 Sesame Street. Educational fun for pre-school children
2.00 Third Wave: A Life in Death. Euthanasia has been legal in The Netherlands for many years. Should Britain allow its elderly to consider this option?
2.45 Film: Sing, Baby, Sing (1936, b/w). Alice Faye stars in a rousing musical satire on a famous romance and the day between John Barrymore and Elaine Barrie. Faye plays a cabaret singer who becomes involved with a drunken Shakespearean actor (Adolpho Cuvillo), who thinks she is his Juliet. The film marked the debut of the Fitz Brothers and also stars Gregory Ratoff, Ted Healy and Patsy Kelly. Directed by Sidney Lanfield



Islam, USA: Shaykh Abu Ali Fattah (8.30pm)

4.20 Romance. A Polish animation about an ill-fated romance between a 2-D man and 3-D flower
4.30 Fifteen-to-One. Quiz show hosted by William G. Stewart
5.00 Owl TV. Michael Strachan presents the last programme in the nature series (Teletext)
5.30 Same Difference. The series that looks at issues affecting people with disabilities examines the problem of obtaining equipment through Social Services
6.00 A Different World. 21 Candles. American comedy series about the careers and adventures of students and teachers at Hillman College
6.30 Vice Raevs Big Night Out. The flamboyant comedian with more guests and comedy sketches (r)
7.00 Channel 4 News
7.50 Comment, followed by weather 8.00 Down to Earth. The archaeology magazine examines the first great detestation by man in Europe at

the end of the Stone Age, sends the writer Peter Achtyon on a visit to Southwark and investigates the excavation and conservation of pre-Roman bronze buckets, used in cremation burial
8.30 Sufism. The Heart of Islam - Living Sufism. The first in a three-part series exploring Sufism, sometimes described as Islamic mysticism. Filmed mainly in Egypt and the United States, the first episode opens in Texas, where a community of 300 Sufis is led by American-born Shaykh Abu Ali Fattah
9.00 News Now. Is There Going To Be a Heterosexual Epidemic? Updated repeat of a documentary on how the AIDS virus is spreading among heterosexuals. There is also a report on how Edinburgh is coping with 2,000 HIV-positive drug users and a look at the relatively low rate of infection among prostitutes
10.00 Olive (1987). Moving and affectionate television film written by Anthony Wheeler in tribute to his late wife, the South-African born actress Olive Boddy, showing how a marriage of opposites coped with the challenge of impending death. Starring Kenny McGuire and Nick Tate. Directed by Stephen Wallace
11.45 It's Showtime at the Apollo. The last show in the series from the Apollo Theatre in Harlem, hosted by the Weather Girls. With New York comic Kim Coles and singer Keith Sweat
12.45am Lonezone. Pine Specials. Texas Lyle Lovett and his band play country music reflecting a mix of rural and urban influences. Ends at 1.50

TV VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
 As London except: 6.55pm-7.00 Anglia News 7.30 Anglia News 8.00 The Bill 11.40 The 26th Cambridge Foot Festival 12.15am Prisoner: Cell Block H 1.05 Film: Friday 1.25 Comedy: The 11th Hour 3.30 Entertainment UK 4.30-5.00 Central News
BORDER
 As London except: 1.50pm A Brush with Evil 2.20-2.50 Santa Barbara 3.05-4.00 Home and Away 6.00 Local News 7.00-7.30 6.00 Local News 7.30-8.00 Potentially Yours 11.40 Film: Night 12.45am Film: Somebody Killed Her Husband 2.30 Film: 3.30 Night Heat 3.45 Film: 3.50 Film: 4.55 About Britain 4.55-5.00 Jeopardy
CENTRAL
 As London except: 6.25-7.00pm Central News 7.30-8.00 Sunday Morning 11.40 Film: Night 12.45am Film: Somebody Killed Her Husband 2.30 Film: 3.30 Night Heat 3.45 Film: 3.50 Film: 4.55 About Britain 4.55-5.00 Jeopardy
GRANADA
 As London except: 1.20pm-1.50 Talkabout 2.50-3.15 Some and Daughters 3.30-7.00 Granada Tonight 7.30-8.00 Granada News 8.00-8.30 Granada News 8.30-9.00 Granada News 9.00-9.30 Granada News 9.30-10.00 Granada News 10.00-10.30 Granada News 10.30-11.00 Granada News 11.00-11.30 Granada News 11.30-12.00 Granada News 12.00-12.30 Granada News 12.30-1.00 Granada News 1.00-1.30 Granada News 1.30-2.00 Granada News 2.00-2.30 Granada News 2.30-3.00 Granada News 3.00-3.30 Granada News 3.30-4.00 Granada News 4.00-4.30 Granada News 4.30-5.00 Granada News 5.00-5.30 Granada News 5.30-6.00 Granada News 6.00-6.30 Granada News 6.30-7.00 Granada News 7.00-7.30 Granada News 7.30-8.00 Granada News 8.00-8.30 Granada News 8.30-9.00 Granada News 9.00-9.30 Granada News 9.30-10.00 Granada News 10.00-10.30 Granada News 10.30-11.00 Granada News 11.00-11.30 Granada News 11.30-12.00 Granada News 12.00-12.30 Granada News 12.30-1.00 Granada News 1.00-1.30 Granada News 1.30-2.00 Granada News 2.00-2.30 Granada News 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BUSINESS

TUESDAY DECEMBER 4 1990

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

BTR chief executive to stand down

JOHN Cahill is to stand down as chief executive of BTR, the industrial conglomerate, after four years. He will be replaced by Alan Jackson, managing director of BTR Nylex, the Australian subsidiary, from January 1.

Mr Cahill, who reached the company's normal retirement age of 60 this year, will remain as a main board director of BTR and chairman of BTR Inc, in charge of the company's North American operations.

City analysts expressed surprise at the timing of Mr Cahill's departure, which coincides with growing concern in the City about prospects for BTR, resulting in a series of downgradings of profit forecasts.

But Sir Owen Green, the chairman, said speculation about Mr Cahill's position was unfounded. "We wanted to avoid the lame duck syndrome so we made the announcement just one month before he retires."

Dobson steady

Dobson Park Industries, the industrial electronics and mining equipment group, maintained pre-tax profits at £19.5 million (£19.2 million) for the year to end-September, despite rationalisation and restructuring costs of £2.8 million. Earnings fell from £12.09p to 11.32p and the total dividend is maintained at 5.75p with an unchanged final of 3.85p. The company is to seek shareholder approval to buy back up to 10 per cent of its ordinary shares.

Tempus, page 27

Westland rise

Westland has raised its dividend for the first time since it restored payments in 1987. The final dividend is 2.5p (2.25p), lifting the total for the year to end-September 7 per cent to 3.75p. Profits rose 27 per cent to £26.2 million.

Tempus, page 27

Tunnel issue

Eurotunnel claimed there was a late surge in investors applying for its rights issue, which closed at 3pm yesterday. A slow start led to fears that much of the £530 million issue might be left with underwriters. The final result may not be known until tomorrow. Fully paid new Eurotunnel units ended unchanged at 315p compared with 318p for existing units. The rights issue was at 285p.

THE POUND

US dollar 1.9205 (-0.0220)
German mark 2.9000 (-0.0102)
Exchange index 93.7 (-0.3)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1695.3 (+12.5)
FT-SE 100 2162.7 (+13.3)
New York Dow Jones 2569.31 (+9.66)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 22725.99 (+271.38)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 14%
3-month interbank 13 1/2%
3-month eligible bills 12 1/2%
US Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 7 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 7.05-7.09%
30-year bonds 10 1/4-10 1/2%

CURRENCIES

London: New York \$1.9205
Paris 166.50
Frankfurt 166.50
Swiss 2.00
Japanese 166.50
Italian 166.50
Spanish 166.50
Greek 166.50
Portuguese 166.50
Australian 166.50
New Zealand 166.50
South African 166.50
Mexican 166.50
Argentine 166.50
Brazilian 166.50
Chilean 166.50
Colombian 166.50
Costa Rican 166.50
Cuban 166.50
Dominican 166.50
Ecuadorian 166.50
El Salvadorian 166.50
Guatemalan 166.50
Honduran 166.50
Indonesian 166.50
Irish 166.50
Israeli 166.50
Jamaican 166.50
Kenyan 166.50
Korean 166.50
Lao 166.50
Lebanese 166.50
Lithuanian 166.50
Luxembourg 166.50
Malaysian 166.50
Maltese 166.50
Mexican 166.50
Moroccan 166.50
Myanmar 166.50
Nepalese 166.50
Nicaraguan 166.50
Norwegian 166.50
Omani 166.50
Panamanian 166.50
Paraguayan 166.50
Peruvian 166.50
Polish 166.50
Portuguese 166.50
Qatari 166.50
Romanian 166.50
Russian 166.50
Saudi Arabian 166.50
Singaporean 166.50
Slovakian 166.50
Slovenian 166.50
South African 166.50
Spanish 166.50
Sri Lankan 166.50
Swedish 166.50
Swiss 166.50
Taiwanese 166.50
Tanzanian 166.50
Thai 166.50
Togolese 166.50
Trinidadian 166.50
Tunisian 166.50
Turkish 166.50
Ugandan 166.50
Ukrainian 166.50
Uruguayan 166.50
US Dollar 166.50
Venezuelan 166.50
Vietnamese 166.50
Yemeni 166.50
Zimbabwean 166.50

GOLD

London Fixing: AM \$381.75 pm \$380.85
Close \$380.50-381.20 (198.69-198.87)
New York: COMEX \$382.25-382.75

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jan) \$30.05 bbl (\$29.20)
Denotes latest trading price

FOUR STAR RATES

Bank	Rate	Bank	Rate
Australia	2.50	2.41	
Austria	21.45	20.10	
Belgium	2.25	2.21	
Canada	11.85	10.85	
Denmark	10.22	9.88	
France	10.22	9.88	
Germany	10.22	9.88	
Greece	10.22	9.88	
Hong Kong	10.22	9.88	
Ireland	10.22	9.88	
Italy	10.22	9.88	
Japan	10.22	9.88	
Netherlands	10.22	9.88	
Norway	10.22	9.88	
Portugal	10.22	9.88	
Spain	10.22	9.88	
Sweden	10.22	9.88	
Switzerland	10.22	9.88	
Taiwan	10.22	9.88	
USA	10.22	9.88	
Yugoslavia	10.22	9.88	

Borrowing on credit jumps to record £4.2bn

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

CONSUMERS borrowed a record £4.23 billion on credit in October, bewildering City economists and casting doubt on evidence that the government's squeeze on inflation has reined back spenders.

The £478 million increase in new credit last month contrasted with market expectations of a small decline and took the monthly amount above the £3.98 billion record set in May.

The Treasury cautioned against reading too much into the figures, especially given the recessionary picture provided by yesterday's final data on retail sales, which confirmed a fall of 1.1 per cent in October.

But a general increase across the various categories of credit, which follows a percentage point cut in base rates on October 8, prompted a mixed

response among economists. While some were simply perplexed by the credit data, others saw them as cause for concern, as they contradicted evidence provided by figures on clearing bank lending, money supply and retail sales.

Julien Callow, UK economist at Chase Investment Bank, said the credit figures suggest that people have spotted the turning point in interest rates and could be building up credit lines again.

Gerard Lyons, chief economist at DKB International, saw the credit numbers pointing to a "flight from cash" which gave grounds for a more cautious interpretation of the monetary data.

Consumers may have turned to credit cards, or have started paying them off more slowly, as this form of borrowing has become easier than

others. The Central Statistical Office said new credit advanced on bank credit cards in October was £2.51 billion, also a record, up from £2.29 billion in September. New credit advanced by finance houses and other specialist bodies to consumers was a record at £1.61 billion, after £1.35 billion.

Ian Harnett, chief economist at Strauss Turnbull, said that despite poor correlation between the credit and retail sales data, the "underlying rise in consumer credit, and the fact that it was across the board, must be worrying".

Credit advanced in the three months to October was £11.68 billion, compared with £11.62 billion in the previous three months, while outstanding credit rose £905 million after £699 million between May and July. New consumer credit grew 1 per cent on the three-month comparison. Bank card credit expanded 5 per cent over the same period.

The volume retail sales data showed a 1.1 per cent seasonally adjusted fall in October, adding to the picture of recession seen in other indicators. The retail sales index was set at 121.3, after 122.7 in September. In the latest three months, sales were 1.4 per cent below the previous three.

The credit figures had little impact in the financial markets, but the pound remained under pressure from the stronger dollar and mark.

The outcome of the German elections fuelled sentiment for the mark, as did expectations of the Bundesbank raising interest rates soon. A fall in the oil price also pushed sterling lower.

On its trade-weighted index, the pound ended 93.7, a decline of 0.3 point since Friday's close, after touching 93.9. It closed 2.20 cents down at \$1.9205 and ended 1.29 pence lower at DM2.9051.

The base rate cut last month had little impact on consumer confidence, with requests for home loans showing a year-on-year fall of 6 per cent last month, after a small rise in September, according to Infolink, the credit reference agency. Retail credit requests were still down 25.1 per cent, having recovered from a 40.8 per cent fall in September.

Comment, page 27

Dollar takes a strong line

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE dollar rose sharply and the pound slipped further as dealers reacted to a sudden change in sentiment in the foreign-exchange markets as well as the continuing tension in the Gulf.

The dollar performed particularly strongly against the yen and the pound, and also made gains, though smaller, against the mark.

By early afternoon in New York, the dollar was trading at ¥134.50 and DM1.5130, compared with Friday's close of ¥132.65 and DM1.4965. The pound fell to \$1.9175 and DM2.8995.

The dollar bulls appeared to be impressed by last week's hint from Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, that the US authorities were becoming concerned about the currency's rapid fall.

For the moment, concerns about the weakness of the American economy and the stability of the country's financial system seemed to be forgotten.

There was also talk that the

Group of Seven leading industrialised countries might hold a meeting next month to plan a dollar-support operation. German and Japanese sources said there was no chance of this, insisting that the G-7 meeting would concentrate entirely on the financial impact of the Gulf conflict and the economic problems in eastern Europe.

But analysts said there had been a big change in market psychology last week and increasing numbers of traders were talking about a big bull-market in the dollar.

This bullish view was upheld when the currency shrugged off weak economic data published by the National Association of Purchasing Management, which said its index of economic activity fell last month to 41.3 from 43.4.

A reading below 50 indicates that the manufacturing sector is generally declining and the association said that the latest index level pointed to a decline of 0.6 per cent in the fourth quarter's gross national product.

Comment, page 27

Nadir given month's grace

By MATTHEW BOND

ASIL Nadir, chairman of Polly Peck International, has reached an initial agreement with his bank creditors, giving him a further month's grace in his battle to avoid personal bankruptcy.

Mr Nadir's courtroom accord coincided with reports of an important boost for Polly Peck's administrators. An injunction granted in October by a northern Cyprus court should be lifted today. The injunction has prevented the administrators gaining access to the company's Cypriot subsidiaries.

If the injunction is lifted, Richard Stone, a Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte partner, is likely to return immediately to northern Cyprus in an attempt

to discover just how much money is held on deposit on the island. Conflicting and confused reports have talked about up to £200 million being on deposit.

Mr Nadir's victory in the bankruptcy court means that his creditors have accepted a list of assets forwarded by Mr Nadir as security, and his plans to dispose of them to pay off his debts. Mr Nadir has always maintained that he has assets that would enable him to repay his debts, although he would require time to realise them.

Following a 25 minute private hearing, a statement was issued on behalf of Mr Nadir and the two banks seeking to recover £22 million owed by

Mr Nadir. "Mr Asil Nadir has reached an agreement with his main creditors for the provision of security in connection with the orderly discharge of his liabilities. Accordingly today's hearing has been adjourned until the first open day after January 7."

By that deadline Mr Nadir is expected to provide the banks with a formal security over the assets involved, opening the way for the bankruptcy petition to be withdrawn.

Bankruptcy proceedings were started by BZW Securities, which is owed £3.6 million by Mr Nadir. It was later joined by Lehman Brothers Securities, owed £18.5 million.

Gulliver rests from his travels

By OUR CITY STAFF

JAMES Gulliver, the former chairman of Argyll Group, is stepping down from his last chairmanship of a public company, Waverley Cameron, the Edinburgh stationery group, after a reverse takeover by BTS Group, the office equipment concern.

BTS, which is quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market, is being bought for an all-share package that values it at about £4 million. Mr Gulliver will stay on "for a suitable period" to effect the integration of the merger.

But Sandra, his management company, will not receive a performance fee for the current year, while its basic fee of more than £100,000 a year and Mr Gulliver's own management fee will not be payable once the offer is declared unconditional. There is no compensation for the termination of the management contract.

There have been reports of dissatisfaction on the part of institutional shareholders over the fees payable to Mr Gulliver and Sandra since his takeover.



Standing down: James Gulliver said the reverse takeover had been

coming in from BTS. The BTS share price has slid in recent months, from a high of more than 50p a year ago to 20p, up 5p, yesterday.

But Waverley has had the added hindrance of heavy borrowings, which helped force it into a £650,000 loss before tax in the six months to the end of September.

The offer is of 186.5 new Waverley shares for every 100 in BTS. It is accompanied by a warning that poor trading conditions were giving Waverley directors "cause for concern". BTS issued half-way figures to end-September yesterday, which showed pre-tax profits just £5,000 higher at £178,000. As usual, there is no interim dividend.

Mr Gulliver has already stepped down from four quoted company chairmanships since he quit Argyll. They are Lowndes Queensway, the collapsed furnishings retailer, Broad Street, the public relations group, and City Gate Estates and Jacksons Bourne End, the property group.



Talking money: David Money-Coutts, right, chairman of M&G, Britain's biggest unit trust group, with Paddy Linaker, managing director, after a 36 per cent dividend rise to 17p a share for the year to end-September. Mr Money-Coutts said the rise reflected confidence even though pre-tax profits grew by only 19 per cent to £28.6 million.

New unit trusts plan is attacked

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE Securities and Investments Board has proposed sweeping changes in unit trust rules that will allow new types of fund to be marketed, specialising in warrants, property, and futures and options. The funds could be marketed like conventional unit trusts, investing in quoted shares, but with some restrictions or warnings about risk.

The consultative paper brings together earlier proposals by the SIB and the trade and industry department. The widening of the scope of unit trusts reflects changes allowed under the European Community directive on collective investment schemes (UCITS).

M&G, Britain's biggest unit trust group, strongly criticised the principle of bringing riskier investments into unit trusts. David Money-Coutts, the chairman, said: "If implemented, these developments run the risk of harming the good name of unit trusts."

Paddy Linaker, M&G's managing director, said: "It is a nonsense to call these unit trusts." He said that liquidity for investors to get their money back when required was an essential feature of unit trusts, which would be compromised in trusts investing directly in property. Futures and options funds would be too speculative.

Under the SIB proposals, property funds would be allowed to invest directly in land or buildings, as well as property shares, but could also put up to 35 per cent of their funds into liquid investments, such as gilt-edged. They would need to carry a warning over liquidity.

Two types of fund could be created for futures and options. The first, which could be sold like ordinary unit trusts but not by cold-calling investors, would not be able to gear up by paying only a margin on a contract. The more risky, which could not be sold through coupons in newspapers or by cold-calling, could use 10 per cent of the fund in geared investments, enabling the fund to be geared up to 30 times. But only 2 per cent of the fund could be put into any single speculation.

Under the regulations, investors could only lose 100 per cent of their money and could not be called on to put in more money to cover losses. Warrant funds will have the same marketing restrictions as geared futures funds.

Comment, page 27

More than 1m want electricity shares

By MARTIN WALLER

ALMOST a million applications have already been processed for shares in the 12 regional electricity distribution companies, with hundreds of thousands more piling up at the receiving banks.

The offer closes at 21 receiving centres around the country at 10 am tomorrow, although completed application forms and cheques can be delivered by 3.30 pm today to high street branches of Lloyds, Barclays, National Westminster, Bank of Scotland, Royal Bank of Scotland and Ulster Bank.

Applications so far have been almost entirely for shares in the potential investors' own regional companies, for which generous incentives are available.

People applying and paying by means of personal crossed cheques do not need to write their names and addresses on the back, although anyone using third-party cheques and bankers' drafts, must.

This corrects any misapprehension arising from yesterday's edition of *The Times*.

Comment, page 27

ISE may open council to more lay members

THE International Stock Exchange is considering changes which will open the way for more lay members to sit on the ruling council.

Since the ISE is unlikely to increase the size of the 32-member council, there may be a reduction in the present number of council members drawn from broking and market-making.

An interim report was considered by the council yesterday and the ISE executive will produce firm proposals in a few weeks.

The move is part of a wider debate taking place on membership and governance of the ISE, reflecting deregulation in the City since 1986.

Current thinking is that industrialists or representatives of European securities houses may be invited to join the council.

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Vivid colour in electric grey market

COMMENT

There comes a stage when success starts to look embarrassing, and if dealings in the unofficial "grey market" in electricity shares are anything to go by, that stage is fast approaching for advisers to the electricity float.

Cheques totalling £500 million have already piled up at the receiving banks, chasing shares worth not much more than £2 billion in their part-paid form, even before the stage come in, which on past form will be during the last two or three days before the offer closes.

So far, the average investment is for a relatively modest £500 partly paid, and more than 90 per cent are for shares in the potential investor's own regional electricity company. Most of those applications, therefore, will be met in full, if the pattern of last year's water float is followed.

But the stage will see the "grey market" dealings, where the average indicated premium is 33 per cent part-paid ranging up to 37 per cent for one of the 12 companies, Northern, as a clear signal of easy pickings. This then becomes a self-fulfilling

prophecy, as all 12 are oversubscribed, clawback provisions go into effect, and the institutions scramble around in the after-market for a decent portfolio.

The advisers to the float have had to walk a difficult tightrope. Uncertainty over the Gulf was nullified by the inclusion of a proper *force majeure* which handed over control to the City, while the market has risen by 100 points since the issue was priced.

If the distributors go to the hefty per cent premiums enjoyed by the water companies, the relevant politicians and civil servants can look forward to an interesting few hours in front of the Public Accounts Committee in a few months' time.

More importantly for the City, there is a coterie within the Department of Energy that has always been convinced that water was given away and has been keen not to repeat the mistake. Their hand would be strength-

ened if the distributors roar away to a massive premium, with inevitable consequences for the sale of the generators next year and British Coal thereafter.

Another blip?

Few Chancellors can have entered office with so many economic indicators signalling that government policy is working. When he took the Treasury helm last week, Norman Lamont could certainly draw comfort from the received wisdom in the City and Whitehall that the anecdotal and statistical evidence was all pointing one way. The counter-inflationary squeeze put in place by his forerunner-but-one was seen by all bar the extreme sceptics to be at last delivering

the right sort of numbers, albeit at the price of recession.

Indeed, published figures show both high street and edge-of-town superstores red with the blood of hemorrhaging retailers. Unemployment is again on the rise and output in retreat. Even the money supply, long a source of difficulty for the Treasury, is finally doing the right thing.

The breathtaking slowdown in the growth of M0, the narrow money measure still officially targeted, would suggest the ultimate confirmation that the consumer is reining back hard. That was until yesterday's joker from the Central Statistical Office, which could spoil Mr Lamont's promising hand of patience. The question perplexing economists, and doubtless the Chancellor, is how consumer credit could surge to a

record £4.23 billion in October when all else told us that consumers have reined back hard. Another "blip", perhaps?

For all the Bank of England's semaphores, the money markets remain convinced that a base rate cut is imminent. But if credit growth has resumed an upward path, any calculations Mr Lamont has done on base rate cuts, with a view to bringing mortgage rates down next month, must be rapidly reworked. The Chancellor's "honeymoon" could be over already.

Disharmony

The traditional British unit trust may prove to be one of the least expected but most regretted victims of European harmonisation. The SIB's proposals to bring in all sorts of exotic new funds reflects twin pressures from the EC UCITS directive and the plans of Paris

and Luxembourg to steal a march on London as a financial centre. The directive allows much national discretion over investment rules, while giving a passport to sell in any member country. Luxembourg has attracted promoters by being irresponsibly liberal. Paris has used its discretion to boost the local futures and options market to rival Liff.

This has produced much nonsense. Funds investing in property may be classed as unit trusts though valuations can differ by 100 per cent and liquidity is not as high as many a receiver would like. Gambles on futures and options are given tax concessions as though they promoted wider share ownership. The proposed marketing restrictions are wholly inadequate. Investors will suffer and an honourable industry that has served savers well will be tarnished.

The pressures cannot be wished away, but these proposals should be rethought even at this late stage. At the very least, such funds should not be allowed to masquerade as unit trusts.

LORD McCarthy of Headington, Labour's principal Lords employment spokesman, has recommended acceptance of the closure of Rover's Cowley plant at Oxford, Britain's longest-standing car factory.

While this might seem odd advice from a senior Labour figure, Lord McCarthy's report, published yesterday by Oxford City Council, is curious only because it is starkly realistic about the company's closure plans, and painfully pragmatic about what to do about them. As British industry braces itself for what could be a savage round of shutdowns in the wake of last week's announcement of two factory closures in the military division by British Aerospace, Rover's parent, the McCarthy report is a model example, not of taking it on the chin, but of trying to do something about the blow when it comes.

Cars have been built at Cowley, where the Maestro and Montego models are nearing the end of their production lives, virtually since William Morris opened his first factory in Oxford in 1913. Rover, however, with a long-term decline in its market share, has over-capacity in Britain. Eighteen months ago, the company gave notice of its plan to close the south works at Cowley, and followed it last year with a similar announcement for the north works.

The total job losses since the closure announcements until the units shut in 1993 could number about 5,000, even allowing for £130 million of investment for executive Rover cars in the old body plant. Faced with what it saw as the near-total closure of motor manufacture in the city, Oxford City Council decided to pre-empt at least some of the inevitable hardship by commissioning an independent report on the plant, chaired by Lord McCarthy and including panelists such as Sir Monty Finniston, former chairman of British Steel, and Anthony Christopher, a past president of the TUC.

Lord McCarthy's report makes rough reading for some council left-wingers. He looks at three options: opposing closure; finding another motor

McCarthy's plan throws a lifeline to Cowley



Lord McCarthy: 'Cowley is a site made in Heaven'

company to take over the plant, and creating an unfettered business park on the site — and rejects them all. Lord McCarthy, looking at outright opposition, the policy adopted by the city council that commissioned his work, said bluntly: "We conclude that this position is untenable." Opposition like this, the report said, could not muster commercial or political power, and would endanger the possibility of constructive talks with the company about the plant's future.

What Lord McCarthy pro-

poses instead is "the only realistic way forward": a deal, a new symbiosis between the council — regarded privately by the company as more difficult than the other local authorities with which it deals — and the company, designed to save at least some declining manufacturing capacity in the city.

The council is urged to set up agreements with Rover and Arlington Securities, the property development subsidiary acquired by BAe. If the council makes development of the Cowley site easier, does not

try to bring in a compulsory purchase order and especially looks at change-of-use planning applications with a favourable mind, Rover might phase in the closures and pay more than £2 million into a specially established Cowley contingency fund to ease the transition and training of the workforce at the plant.

For Rover, the prize is worth having. Oxford City Council values estimate that a mixed commercial, residential and retail development at Cowley could put a value of up to £50 million on the site, a prime piece of southeast real estate. "From a developer's point of view," Lord McCarthy said yesterday, "this site was made in Heaven."

Cowley's unions are supporting the plan. Ivor Braggins, TGWU convenor, said: "In a realistic world, you cannot expect the company to continue employment if it can't produce cars and sell them in the market place."

But the council, while accepting Lord McCarthy's advice, tried to appease a range of internal political views by attempting to hold on to the fig-leaf of "conditional" opposition. That can be avoided by the company simply not taking up the McCarthy plan, but Rover was positive yesterday, praising the realism of what is being suggested. A formal meeting between Rover and the council to start talks is likely.

Lord McCarthy was optimistic, despite the last-minute operational difficulties of the council's political manoeuvrings. While accepting that the current recession made a new start for Cowley even more difficult, he looked to the future.

He said: "This is a long-term development. If the work was put in now, then when the upturn came, Cowley would benefit."

He had no doubts. He said: "This site at Cowley will participate in the economic recovery."

PHILIP BASSETT
Industrial Editor

Ray of light in Westland black hole

TEMPUS

WESTLAND is in the darkest depths of the infamous black hole for helicopter orders that prompted the departure from cabinet of Michael Heseltine and changed the course of British politics.

But while helicopter orders remain scarce, Westland has not been short of ideas about squeezing better returns from its workload.

A handsome set of full-year figures showed profits up 27 per cent at £26.2 million and earnings per share up 16 per cent at 12.4p.

But perhaps the most pleasing news for shareholders was a higher final dividend of 2.5p per share, the first increase since the group returned to the dividend list in 1987. It lifts total payout to 3.75p against 3.5p last time, a 7 per cent rise.

The dividend boost is a fair reflection of rising profits this year and last, but it might also help shore up Westland's shares which have slipped from a high of 152p earlier this year to 105p, up 3p on the day.

GKN sits passively on a potentially vital 22 per cent stake and takeover talk will return when the group emerges from its black hole.

When that will be is not clear, though by next year the Ministry of Defence is expected to place an order for 50 Royal Navy EH101s and Italy is thought to want 38. A Saudi order for 88 Black Hawks is part of the Al Yamamah project. Work could begin soon, but the date is clouded by events in the Gulf.

Westland delivered 14 helicopters in the year to end September compared with 18

last time, but with several hundred aircraft in service its customer support and spares business held trading profit from the division at £19.2 million, close to the previous year's £19.7 million.

Aerospace activities performed strongly with profits up 66 per cent to £5.8 million while the third division of Westland's business, technologies, raised profits from £8 million to £9.6 million.

Higher margins and lower gearing provide evidence that Westland is a much tighter ship than in the past but a rising tax charge will keep fully diluted earnings flat next year at around 10.4p.

The shares, on a prospective multiple of 11, look safe but dull.

M&G

M&G is rightly seen as the quality company in the fund management business, not least because it has combined old-fashioned virtues with market success over the long haul. In a year combining a good first half and a poor last few months, when investors spurned the sagging stock market, M&G still managed a 19 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £35.7 million.

That was helped by the high quality life profits, up a quarter to £6.5 million, and by keeping £20 million of its corporate cash on deposit, helping investment income rise 29 per cent to £7.1

million. But unit trust and other fund management profits were still up 14 per cent, helped by growth in Peps and slightly higher charges.

The shares rose 10p to 358p because the 36 per cent dividend rose to 17p per share even better than expected after the interim payment. Dividends have virtually doubled in two years, but are still covered 1.9 times. M&G explains this as following its own advice to companies. But it was really a catching up exercise after caution in the wake of the 1987 crash sent cover to three times.

Over ten years, earnings and dividends have both grown at a compound rate of 29 per cent. That explains the shares' rating of 11.2 times earnings with a 6.3 per cent yield, which is also justified by the value of the business.

The unit trust market is still slack, despite the expected end of season boost to Peps applications. But, to do at all well this year, M&G needs the public to share institutions' renewed fondness for equities. M&G has given a lead by switching most of its cash back into its own unit trusts. Long-term investors should not find the shares expensive.

Dobson Park

THESE are hard times for the engineering sector and Dobson Park Industries is no exception. Despite hefty restructuring

costs, taxable profits were maintained at £19.5 million last year, against £19.2 million. But Alan Kaye, chief executive, left the City in little doubt that trading conditions would continue to deteriorate and that the current year threatened to be extremely difficult.

Profits came in ahead of expectations despite a charge of £2.84 million to cover redundancy and restructuring costs. Several other factors worked in the company's favour during the second half.

Orders from British Coal late in the year helped the mining equipment division return profits of £7.26 million, against £8.19 million, disguising a much flatter picture. Advance payment of £7 million on an American mining equipment contract reduced borrowing levels and the associated interest charge while property profits rose from £871,000 to £2.09 million.

Gearing was cut from 40 per cent to 12.3 per cent but there is evidence of more pain to come. Almost all growth within industrial electronics, which returned profits up from £7.3 million to £8.1 million, was attributable to acquisitions.

Analysis will be surprised if profits this year exceed £16.5 million, suggesting an 18 per cent fall in earnings to 9.3p a share. On the bright side, the shares, up 3p to 64p, offer a yield of 12 per cent on a flat dividend. The prospective multiple of almost nine is about right. Too early to buy but existing shareholders should sit tight.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Lowson joins County team

COUNTY NatWest has won another victory in the bid to build up its fledgling derivatives arm by poaching Piers Lowson, top futures and options associate at James Capel, to join its team in Edinburgh. Lowson, who joined Capel in 1987, has made his name in the field of options research, and is advising the Securities and Investments Board on a new regime for futures and options funds in Britain. "I am now looking forward to a holiday," says Lowson, aged 26, who resigned yesterday and joins County as an associate director in January — at the same time as Andrew Barrie, a former colleague at Capel, who resigned from the firm in August. They will both be working with Robert Mapstone, former head of UK derivatives at Warburg Securities, who is running the fast-expanding division. Lowson and Barrie will also be reunited with another past colleague — Graham Corrie, who left Capel for Kleinwort Benson, and is now head dealer at County. And there is a further academic touch to it all, since County's consultant on quantitative research — Dr Jan Kwiatkowski — worked with Lowson in 1987, while he was studying portfolio theory as a

THE electricity privatisation is set to be an overwhelming success if City trends are anything to go by. For the London Wall branch of Ryman's, the stationer, was completely sold out of pins yesterday — to the frustration of punters who hoped to pin sizeable cheques to their application forms.

Young at heart

ERNST & Young, one of the largest firms of accountants in America, has dismissed talk that it is about to file for bankruptcy protection. And it says it is just coincidence that it has spent \$250,000 on six upbeat advertisements in large newspapers, thanking everyone for their support. Talk that the firm is about to seek Chapter 11 protection seems from potentially large legal claims over past audits of two large collapsed Savings & Loan Associations. The Fed-



eral Deposit Insurance Corporation, the depositors' watchdog, has already filed a \$560 million action against the firm, and it faces further action for its role in the fall of Lincoln Savings, the largest S&L collapse in America. Ernst & Young say it is blameless in these cases and was scrupulous with its audits. The firm's 2,000 American partners, meanwhile, seem oblivious to their plight. They spent the weekend at Disney World in Florida, celebrating the first anniversary of the merger with Arthur Young.

ALL the rage among stockbrokers in New York looking for an unusual Christmas present... fur ear-muffs, ideal for a spouse or girlfriend's personal stereo speakers. Made from golden sable, they sell for \$1,000 a pair.

Warming to theme

INSTEAD of joining the queue to buy electricity shares, Frank might be better off spending the money on insulating his castle, according to Friends of the Earth. The charity claims spending on cavity wall and loft insulation can offer an annual return of £30 for every £100 they cost — the same yield claimed by Kleinwort Benson for electricity shares in their first year on the market. That return will

Frank has been kept in the dark about it," says Simon Roberts, FoE's energy campaigner.

AN EMBARRASSING correction to the South East Electricity Board's Christmas quiz has just been circulated to thousands of households. They had missed a "c" out of Electricity.

Champions Capel

THE rough and tumble of the dealing room found its way to the football pitch this weekend, when James Capel and Barclays de Zoete Wedd challenged each other to a game of soccer — in New York. And while Capel beat their old rivals 4-3, BZW more than made up for it in other ways. "They definitely won in terms of injuries inflicted," says Ray "Gazza" Kelly, director of UK sales at Capel's New York office, who captained the event and is now nursing a swollen ankle for his efforts. Other Capels casualties include Nick Howard and Gary Webb, who barely made it to the firm's offices in the Chrysler building to catch the first trades. The Capel team, resplendent in their red and white colours, hope to tackle other British firms in New York — as soon as they recover from their wounds. Kelly was reluctant to name his aggressors. Jim O'Neill head of

THE TIMES GUIDE TO 1992

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LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES											
				Open		Low		Close			
				Open		Low		Close			
FT-SE 100				Previous open		Interim		Vol			
Dec 91	2197.4	2200.0	2193.0	2196.0	4412						
Mar 92	2197.4	2200.0	2193.0	2196.0	4412						
Three Month Sterling				Previous open		Interim		Vol			
Dec 91	95.00	95.00	95.00	95.00	12329						
Mar 92	95.00	95.00	95.00	95.00	12329						
Three Month Eurodollar				Previous open		Interim		Vol			
Dec 91	91.51	91.51	91.51	91.51	1485						
Mar 92	91.51	91.51	91.51	91.51	1485						
Three Month Euro DM				Previous open		Interim		Vol			
Dec 91	90.78	90.78	90.78	90.78	2861						
Mar 92	90.78	90.78	90.78	90.78	2861						
Three Month ECU				Previous open		Interim		Vol			
Dec 91	91.51	91.51	91.51	91.51	1485						
Mar 92	91.51	91.51	91.51	91.51	1485						
Three Month US Treasury				Previous open		Interim		Vol			
Dec 91	95.00	95.00	95.00	95.00	12329						
Mar 92	95.00	95.00	95.00	95.00	12329						
Three Month Japanese Govt Bond				Previous open		Interim		Vol			
Dec 91	91.51	91.51	91.51	91.51	1485						
Mar 92	91.51	91.51	91.51	91.51	1485						
Three Month German Govt Bond				Previous open		Interim		Vol			
Dec 91	91.51	91.51	91.51	91.51	1485						
Mar 92	91.51	91.51	91.51	91.51	1485						

COMMODITIES											
				Open		Low		Close			
				Open		Low		Close			
COCOA				Previous open		Interim		Vol			
Dec 91	95.00	95.00	95.00	95.00	12329						
Mar 92	95.00	95.00	95.00	95.00	12329						
COPPER				Previous open		Interim		Vol			
Dec 91	91.51	91.51	91.51	91.51	1485						
Mar 92	91.51	91.51	91.51	91.51	1485						
CORN				Previous open							

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES					OTHER STERLING RATES	
Market rates for December 3						
	Range	Close	1 month	3 month		
New York	1.9200-1.9380	1.9200-1.9210	0.95-1.01	2.43-2.27p	Argentina austral*	9650.0-9800.0
Amstcr	1.9200-1.9380	1.9200-1.9210	0.95-1.01	2.43-2.27p	Australia dollar	2.460-2.490
Amsterd	3.2705-3.2775	3.2712-3.2793	1.58-1.60	4.08-3.92p	Bahrain dirhal	n/a
Brussels	59.70-61.40	59.75-60.00	31-32p	80-85p	Brazil cruzeiro*	279.70-281.50
Copenhagen	11.0970-11.1740	11.0970-11.1225	4.90-4.95	67p-74p	Canada dollar	0.69-0.70
Hank	2.0982-2.0950	2.0982-2.0972	11-11 1/2p	9-9 1/2p	Denmark krone	6.93-6.95
Franklin	254.31-254.30	254.50-255.00	8-11 1/2p	11-11 1/2p	Greece drachma	257-130-20.35
Geneve	11.1970-11.1970	11.1970-11.1970	4-4 1/2p	4-4 1/2p	Hong Kong dollar	15.0000-15.0000
Italy	212.29-216.81	212.29-216.81	3-1p	4-4 1/2p	Indian rupee	15.0000-15.0000
Osaka	11.3059-11.3019	11.3059-11.3019	21-24p	51k-49k	Kuwait dirhal	2.1900-2.2010
Paris	11.3059-11.3019	11.3059-11.3019	21-24p	51k-49k	Malaysian ringgit	2.1900-2.2010
Stockholm	10.8413-10.8243	10.8413-10.8243	1-3 1/2p	4-4 1/2p	New Zealand dollar	3.1470-3.1590
Tokyo	257.27-259.04	257.27-259.04	11-14 1/2p	31k-34k	Saudi Arabia riyal	n/a
Zurich	2.4768-2.4658	2.4768-2.4658	1-1 1/2p	21-24p	Singapore dollar	3.1575-3.1575
					S Africa rand	6.8165-6.7575
					S Africa rand (com)	4.9381-4.4585
					U.S. dollar	0.95-0.95
					*Lloyds Bank, Rates supplied by Ester and Sternberg Bank, G13	

Belgium	2,9380-2.9920	Switzerland	1.2887-1.2894	Hong Kong	7.8040-7.8250
Australia	1.2811-1.2828	Netherlands	1.6974-1.6984	Portugal	132.45-132.65
Canada	1.1854-1.1864	France	5.6875-5.6925	Spain	95.40-95.50
Sweden	5.6370-5.6420	Japan	133.65-133.95	Austria	10.58-10.60
Norway	5.6825-5.6875				

Prices supplied by Barclays Bank GTS and Exot.

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3 mth 12% ¹⁰ -14%	6 mth 12% ¹⁰ -14%	12 mth 12%-12%	GOLD COINS (Per coin, Ex VAT) Britannia: \$388.00-389.00 (€201.00-203.00) Kruggerand: \$399.00-381.00 (€179.00-198.00) American Eagle: \$388.00-389.00 (€201.00-203.00) Mexican: \$396.00-368.00 (€201.00-203.00)
Dollar CDs (%)	1 mth 8.60-8.55	2 mth 8.60-8.55	
3 mth 8.25-8.20	6 mth 8.05-8.00	12 mth 8.00-7.95	
Building Society CDs (%)	1 mth 14% ¹⁰ -13%	2 mth 13% ¹⁰ -13%	
1 mth 12%-12%	9 mth 12%-12%	12 mth 12%-12%	

cont. Reference rate Sept 29, 1890 to Oct 31, 1890
Scheurle IV & V: 14.164 per cent.

Patellidum per fix: 992.00 (223.40)
Spot Silver: \$4.165-4.175 (\$2.1732-2.1795)

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Open	High	Low	Close	Net
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Three Month Sterling				Previous open interest 16292	
Mar 91	95.26	95.31	95.15	95.19	95.29
Mar 91	95.26	95.31	95.15	95.19	95.29
Three Month Eurodollar				Previous open interest 45779	
Dec 90	91.51	91.50	91.52	91.55	91.52
Dec 90	91.51	91.50	91.52	91.55	91.52
Three Month Euro DM				Previous open interest 75466	
Dec 90	90.79	90.83	90.71	90.78	90.81
Mar 91	90.69	90.72	90.65	90.68	90.70
Long Gold				Previous open interest 53842	
Dec 90	87.31	87.35	87.28	87.33	87.33
Dec 90	87.31	87.35	87.28	87.33	87.33
Japanese Gov Bond				Previous open interest 4163	
Dec 90	93.90	93.90	93.75	93.78	93.77
Canadian Gov Bond				Previous open interest 17350	
Dec 90	93.30	93.33	93.20	93.24	93.25
Mar 91	93.33	93.33	93.25	93.28	93.25

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خذنا من الأصل

WORLD MARKET INDICES

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

R&D 'gamble' could pay off

Letters to *The Times Business* and Finance section can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

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 *Underlying security price.

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and capital cost subsidy, much poor investment in superficial

products is now being shown, with high nominal interest rates, to have been of little value — although good companies continue to flourish. When so much poor business activity is stopped by rationally priced capital then that does not represent a recession. Government should not lower real post-tax interest rates in Britain. They are already below levels experienced by our EC competitors, encouraging a continued poor quality of investment and a further decline relative to other countries.

economic inadequacies, and it may be painful for so many engaged in futile business activity based on those inadequacies and who will now lose their jobs. But it would be far worse to continue the illusion of wealth creation by making cheap capital even cheaper. Nothing could be worse for a capitalist economy.

Yours faithfully,
RODNEY E. B. ATKINSON,
Managing Director,
Public Issue Conferences,
5 Harbour Exchange Square,
E14.

Letters to *The Times* Business

This is not true, any more than the decline in turnover of one company or one industry represents a recession on account of which monetary policy should be relaxed. After many decades of industrial

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Aftermath of arson: all journalists should beware of championing the cause of alleged firebugs

Perils of playing with fire

The media should avoid launching crusades, Sir Michael Ogden, QC, says

LEGAL BRIEF

No part of the media would wish its conduct to be responsible for payments to arsonists who have burnt down their business premises to claim on their insurers. Unfortunately, there is no doubt that the conduct of some newspapers and, particularly, broadcasters has had this result.

Several times in recent years some part of the media has taken up the cause of somebody whose insurers have refused to pay up, alleging that he started the fire deliberately. The insured person's story is then published and the insurance company is castigated for refusing to pay. Of course, the insurers' reasons for repudiation are never given because comment would involve alleging arson and giving the reasons, thereby exposing themselves to a libel action.

The result is bad publicity for the insurers. In cases of which I know and which have attracted this type of publicity, insurers have always stood firm and the alleged arsonist has never recovered any money, usually abandoning the litigation once his lawyers have seen the formidable evidence in the insurers' possession.

However, the adverse publicity affects cases involving other insurers, as well as those who have been the victims of the media campaign. Claims managers are instructed by their board or chief executive that, from a commercial point of view, it is better to pay up in cases that could be successfully fought rather than attract adverse

publicity, except in the rare cases in which the evidence is so strong that the police will prosecute and obtain a conviction. I know that this is happening.

I suspect that those in the media who have run the campaigns have not appreciated the true position. Although in proceedings brought by an insured person against insurers the burden on insurers of proving arson is the civil burden of proof, because of the gravity of the accusation the burden is a heavy one.

No insurers will embark on such a course unless they consider they have strong evidence. Quite apart from the desire to protect their reputation, insurers who allege arson are likely to face a claim for loss of profits for breach of contract, and the damages and costs are likely to be considerable if they lose.

One must assume that editors who start these campaigns are not so glib as to think that the insured person's story is necessarily true, but programmes I have watched and listened to and articles I have read in cases in which I have been concerned have usually been inaccurate. What may not be realised is the great care taken before insurers repudi-

ate on the ground of arson. Loss adjusters will have been instructed, as a matter of course, and it is they who will first have raised the possibility of arson, usually as a result of what they have been told by police officers and firemen. Forensic scientists experienced in fire cases will then be instructed. Only if they report that the evidence shows, not merely arson, but arson by the insured, will insurers consider repudiation on that account.

Because motive is extremely important, loss adjusters or accountants will report on the financial situation of the insured company or firm. Insurers will instruct solicitors, who will collate all this and, when all the reports are obtained, counsel will be instructed to advise insurers. Nobody will advise insurers to fight unless the evidence is very strong.

Anybody who contemplates starting a crusade against insurers in these cases should therefore assume that, whatever the assured has to say, it is almost certain that the evidence that he committed arson is substantial.

Why does the editor or programme-maker who makes an

attack on insurers have the arrogance to think he can judge the assured's innocence without knowing any of the evidence in the insurers' possession?

It seems to me that to run a campaign of this kind comes close to contempt of court. Why should insurers that have made it plain to the assured that the claim will be contested in court on the basis that the assured has committed a serious crime be harassed and castigated to induce payment to the alleged criminal?

The cost of shoplifting to a shopkeeper is as much as overhead as his rent and is reflected in the prices the public have to pay for goods. So, too, with insurance. The larger the sums paid out in claims, the higher the premiums for everybody.

Insurers believe the cost of losses from arson is now approaching £500 million a year in direct damage alone, that is, excluding such claims as loss of profits. Most arson fires are associated with vandalism and theft but arson committed for the purpose of fraudulent claims on insurers constitutes a significant part of the total.

What the media campaigns have achieved is increased payments to arsonists, which are reflected in higher premiums all round, and it is scant satisfaction that the higher premiums for those who have run such campaigns.

The author is a practising barrister.

Court of Appeal

Immigrant's innocent false statement

Regina v Immigration Appeal Tribunal, Ex parte Akhtar
Before Lord Justice Mustill, Lord Justice Staughton and Lord Justice McCowan
[Judgment November 28]

False representations innocently employed in ignorance of the true situation to obtain entry clearance into the United Kingdom entitled an immigration officer to refuse leave to enter under paragraph 13 of the *Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules 1983* (HC 169). The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the applicant, Tahzeem Akhtar, from the refusal by Mr Justice Nolan on July 6, 1990 to grant leave to move for judicial review of the Immigration Appeal Tribunal's rejection of her appeal from an adjudicator's refusal of leave to enter.

The applicant applied for and was granted in Islamabad entry clearance to him and was still current was not to be refused leave to enter unless the immigration officer was satisfied that "a) whether or not to the holder's knowledge false representations were employed or material facts were not disclosed, either in writing or orally, for the purpose of obtaining the clearance."

married the previous year. She arrived at Heathrow on June 11, 1989 and was refused leave to enter on the ground that in ignorance of the true situation she had falsely represented to the visa officer that her marriage to him and was still current was not to be refused leave to enter unless the immigration officer was satisfied that "a) whether or not to the holder's knowledge false representations were employed or material facts were not disclosed, either in writing or orally, for the purpose of obtaining the clearance."

Paragraph 13 of the 1983 Rules provided that a passenger who held an entry clearance certificate which was duly issued to him and was still current was not to be refused leave to enter unless the immigration officer was satisfied that "a) whether or not to the holder's knowledge false representations were employed or material facts were not disclosed, either in writing or orally, for the purpose of obtaining the clearance."

Mr Michael Shrimpton for the applicant; the tribunal did not appear.

LORD JUSTICE McCOWAN said that Mr Shrimpton's case was that for paragraph 13(a) to apply, the Secretary of State for the Home Department had to establish fraud by the applicant. But nowhere did the word "fraud" appear in paragraph 13. Indeed there could not possibly be any question of the need to establish fraud because of the words "whether or not to the holder's knowledge".

What had to be shown was that the representation was false in the sense of not being accurate and that such representation had been made for the purpose of obtaining the clearance. It clearly had been.

Mr Shrimpton had advanced an alternative argument that the words "false representations" in paragraph 13 should be read as "false material representations". He relied on an unreported decision of the tribunal in the case of *Azad* given on October 15, 1984. But the tribunal had not been

justified in putting the matter in the way that it had in that case. Further, Mr Shrimpton had properly drawn the court's attention to a later and contrary decision of the tribunal in the case of *Eusebio* on September 19, 1986.

There was no justification for any gloss being put on the plain words of paragraph 13: it was stating that false representations had to have been employed for the purpose of obtaining clearance.

It was possible that there might be matters on the relevant form that could be said to be included not for the purpose of obtaining clearance. It could not possibly be said that in the instant case the representation had not been employed for the purpose of obtaining entry clearance.

LORD JUSTICE STAUGHTON delivered a concurring judgment and LORD JUSTICE MUSTILL agreed. Solicitors: Russell & Hallmark, Worcester.

But the tribunal had not been

Law Report December 4 1990

Arora v Bradford Metropolitan Council

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Russell and Lord Justice Farquharson
[Judgment November 27]

Exemplary damages could be awarded by an industrial tribunal against a local authority found to have unlawfully discriminated on grounds of sex and race against an applicant for a post at a college for which the authority had responsibility.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by Ms Ranjita Arora from the order of the Employment Appeal Tribunal (Mr Justice Wood, Mr J. H. Gubbins and Mr W. Morris (1989) 129 TLR 13, 1989) reversing an industrial tribunal's decision to award her £11,000 exemplary damages in addition to its compensation award.

Mr Stephen Sedley, QC and Mr Goolam Meera for the

applicant; Mr William Birles for the council.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that the award had been made in proceedings brought by the applicant, a Sikh, alleging that the council had been guilty of direct discrimination against her in a manner contrary to both the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 and the Race Relations Act 1976.

Since 1980 the applicant had been employed at the Bradford and Ilkley College. In 1987 the post of head of department of teaching studies at the college was advertised and she decided to apply for the post. The case was concerned with the way her application was dealt with and the circumstances surrounding her interview for the post.

The industrial tribunal had upheld her complaint that she had been discriminated against. The finding of discrimination was not now the subject of any appeal.

The only issue was whether the industrial tribunal was entitled on the facts of the case to make an award of exemplary damages in addition to an award of damages by way of compensation.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal had held that awards of exemplary damages in relation to acts of local government were confined to the execution of public powers and where a local authority was exercising its powers to select individuals for employment it was not exercising a power within the public domain.

On behalf of the applicant it had been submitted:

- 1 That, as was conceded by the council, local authorities were liable to pay exemplary damages in appropriate cases in the same way as were organs of central government.
- 2 That there was no authority for the novel distinction drawn by the Employment Appeal Tribunal between public functions of local authorities and "private" functions.
- 3 That a local authority was a corporation created by statute and its functions were limited to

the exercise of powers and the performance of duties expressly or impliedly created by legislation.

4 That the functions carried out by a local authority were public functions and there was no room for the concept that in relation to certain of its functions the authority was acting in a private capacity.

5 That it was not to the point that judicial review might not be available in relation to a contract of employment between a local authority and an employee. The award of exemplary damages in tort was based on a different principle.

6 Although there might be cases where actions taken by employees of a local authority could not be regarded as an abuse of public power, in the present case it was to be remembered that the committee was composed of a principal and a vice-principal of the college as well as a councillor as a representative of the governing body of the college.

On behalf of the council it was submitted that the Employment Appeal Tribunal was fully justified in drawing a distinction between the private actions of the council and functions which could properly be regarded as public functions.

The real question, Mr Birles submitted, was whether at the material time the authority was exercising a function of a governmental character. Exemplary damages only lay where the person or body was exercising authority or giving directions. It was to be remembered that Lord Devlin had spoken in *Roake v Barnard* (1964) AC 1129, 1233 of "the arbitrary and outrageous use of executive power".

His Lordship saw the force of the submission put forward on behalf of the council. But in his judgment the distinction drawn by the Employment Appeal Tribunal was unsound.

Exemplary damages were anomalous and it was difficult to find any satisfactory basis for allowing such damages against a small local authority and refusing them against a powerful

international company.

But the anomaly existed and governmental bodies including local authorities were treated as being in a special category.

His Lordship did not find it possible to accept the suggestion that when the applicant was being interviewed the committee was carrying out some private function of the council.

In *Roake v Barnard* (1964) AC 1129, Lord Devlin had stated the first category of exemplary damages to be in respect of "oppressive, arbitrary or unconstitutional action by servants of the government." Lord Reid in *Broome v Cassell* (1972) AC 1027, 1088 had said that that extended to local government.

It was not necessary to examine in the present case the exact ambit of Lord Devlin's first category. There might be some cases where a junior officer of a council was carrying out some duty which could not properly be regarded as the exercise of a public function at all.

But in the present case senior employees of the council and a councillor were considering a candidate for a senior position in a college for which the council had responsibility and in respect of which it exercised functions under the Education Acts.

Cases where exemplary damages were justified would be rare, probably very rare. Before awarding such damages the court or tribunal would need to consider whether the conduct which was criticised fell within one of the special categories explained in *Roake v Barnard* and *Broome v Cassell*.

It would also have to consider whether the award of compensatory damages, including aggravated damages, was not by itself sufficient to punish the defendant for what had been done.

LORD JUSTICE RUSSELL agreed and LORD JUSTICE FARQUHARSON delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Cuff Roberts North Kirk, Liverpool; Mr A. R. Sykes, Bradford.

Extended limitation period applies to former embassy

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs v Tomlin and Others

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Farquharson and Lord Justice Russell
[Judgment November 14]

The Secretary of State having vested in himself the embassy of a country with which the United Kingdom no longer had diplomatic relations, the limitation period of 30 years under section 15(1) of and Schedule 1 to the Limitation Act 1980 was applicable and the squatters could not rely on 12 years' adverse possession.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by Mr David Tomlin from the order of Mr Justice Mantell made on May 4, 1990 ordering him and five others to give up possession of the former Cambodian Embassy at 21 Avenue Road and 26/30 Townsend Road, St John's Wood, London.

On the overthrow of its government in 1975 the embassy staff had closed the building and handed over the keys to the Foreign Office. The British Government had had no dealings with any authority as the government of Cambodia. Mr Tomlin had entered the premises as a squatter in August 1976 and was later joined by others.

The Secretary of State having taken the view that, should the squatters remain in occupation, there was a possibility that the squatters might acquire title by adverse possession, had vested in himself the title to the premises and applied for possession under Order 113 of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

Mr Leolin Price, QC and Mr Donald Broach for Mr Tomlin; Mr Guy Sankey and Mr Ian Ashford-Thom for the Secretary of State.

1980. Section 15(1) provided: "No action shall be brought by any person to recover any land after the expiration of 12 years from the date on which the right of action accrued..." Part II of Schedule 1 to the Act provided: "Section 15(1) ... shall apply to the bringing of an action to recover any land by the Crown ... with the substitution for the reference to 12 years of a reference to 30 years". The question was whether the Secretary of State was entitled to avail himself of the extended limitation period.

Mr Price had argued that the provisions had to be given a purposive construction. The purpose of section 15(1) and paragraph 10 was to protect the Crown. The exception did not apply to the bringing of an action whatsoever by the Crown but only to actions for the recovery of Crown lands, so that the reference in section 15(1) to "any land" was to be construed as a reference to "any Crown land". Reliance had been placed on *McGregor and Wade, The Law of Real Property* (5th edition (1984) p1032).

Mr Price had submitted that the statutory obligation imposed on the Secretary of State by section 3 of the Diplomatic

and Consular Premises Act 1987 was to sell the premises and hold the proceeds of sale for the State of Cambodia until it could be paid on the resumption of diplomatic relations.

The function of the Secretary of State was thus a purely administrative one and the premises did not come within the category of land where the Crown needed the protection of section 15(1).

His Lordship could not see any justification for restricting the ambit of the statute in the way Mr Price had suggested. So far as section 15(1) and paragraph 10 were concerned, the Act was procedural. If the Act said "any land" his Lordship could not see how any restrictions could be placed upon those words.

While a purposive construction of a statute often helped, it was only applicable where there was some ambiguity in the provisions in question. Here, the provisions were clear enough. The Secretary of State was entitled to rely on the extended period of limitation.

LORD JUSTICE RUSSELL delivered a concurring judgment and LORD JUSTICE NEILL agreed.

Solicitors: Cohen & Naicker, Treasury Solicitor.

Unfair dismissals

Morgan v Electrolux Ltd

The Employment Appeal Tribunal should not substitute its own decision for that of the industrial tribunal to declare an employee had been unfairly dismissed.

Upon the issue of whether an employer had failed to carry out as much investigation as was reasonable in all the circumstances of the case the appeal tribunal had to remit the case back to an industrial tribunal for decision unless no industrial tribunal, properly directed, could have come to the conclusion that the employee

had not been unfairly dismissed. The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Balcombe and Lord Justice Leggatt) so held in a reserved judgment on November 29 when allowing the appeal of Sandra Morgan against the decision of the Employment Appeal Tribunal (Mr Justice Wood, Mr T. S. Batho and Mr S. M. Springett) on October 20, 1989 to allow the appeal of the employers, Electrolux Ltd, against the decision of a Bedford industrial tribunal on April 28, 1988 that the employee had been unfairly dismissed.

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Short arm of the law

The Efficiency Commission, the joint body of the legal profession and the Lord Chancellor's department, recently published "good practice" guidelines to improve efficiency in the crown courts. These are welcome, but they do not go far enough, nor will they make any real savings.

If Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, is serious in his intentions to control the cost of legal aid and the courts themselves, he needs to adopt a more radical approach.

There are at least two ways in which substantial savings can be made. First, unnecessary court hearings can be eliminated. Second, court hearings that are unnecessarily long can be shortened.

In the bulk of the cases before the crown court, at least in number, if not in length, the pleas are guilty, if straight-forward crimes are being dealt with, such as the burglary of homes. Sentencing in all criminal cases is based on the concept of a tariff for the type of offence involved, together with adjustments according to the circumstances of the offence and the previous record of the defendant.

This system is clearly understood by lawyers, and in the vast majority of cases the sentence can be predicted with a high degree of accuracy.

Equally, the defendant often

Some crime cases could be dealt with by letter to save costs and time, says Patrick Stevens in a plea for efficiency

has a good idea of the penalty that will be imposed on him and, provided he does not get more than the perceived tariff for that offence, he will not want to appeal. There is no reason in cases such as these for anybody to attend court, except for the defendant to receive his predetermined sentence.

The procedure could be simplified in the following way. After a case had been committed for trial in the crown court, a judge would study the papers in the case and consider a written plea in mitigation from the defendant's solicitors. The judge would then give a formal written notification to the defence of the sentence if there was a plea of guilty.

If the defendant was prepared to accept this, only he would have to attend court for the imposition of the sentence. If the defendant did not accept it, there would be a hearing in the normal way and the judge in the case would not be bound in any way by the sentence previously offered.

To make the system work effectively, the sentences offered would have to include a further slight discount on the standard one-third reduction

for a plea of guilty. Not only would this make many hearings redundant, but it would also induce many defendants to plead guilty and the cost of trials would be reduced.

There need be no element of justice being done in secret because the prosecution summary of the case and the defendant's mitigation could be made public as soon as sentence was passed and the judge could add any comments he wished to make at that stage.

In this way the media would be enabled to report on the case with exactly the same information as they would have if the case had been dealt with in the normal way.

Defendants in the magistrates' courts have been allowed for many years to plead guilty by post in certain classes of case and, provided there are adequate safeguards for the defendant, such as a requirement that he be advised by a solicitor before accepting a sentence, there is no reason in principle why the system cannot be extended to the crown court.

There is also ample scope for reducing costs in contested

cases. Most crown court trials take far longer than necessary. Trials are more speedily and efficiently dealt with in the magistrates' courts than in the crown courts because most magistrates' court work is dealt with by solicitors and nearly all crown court work is conducted by barristers.

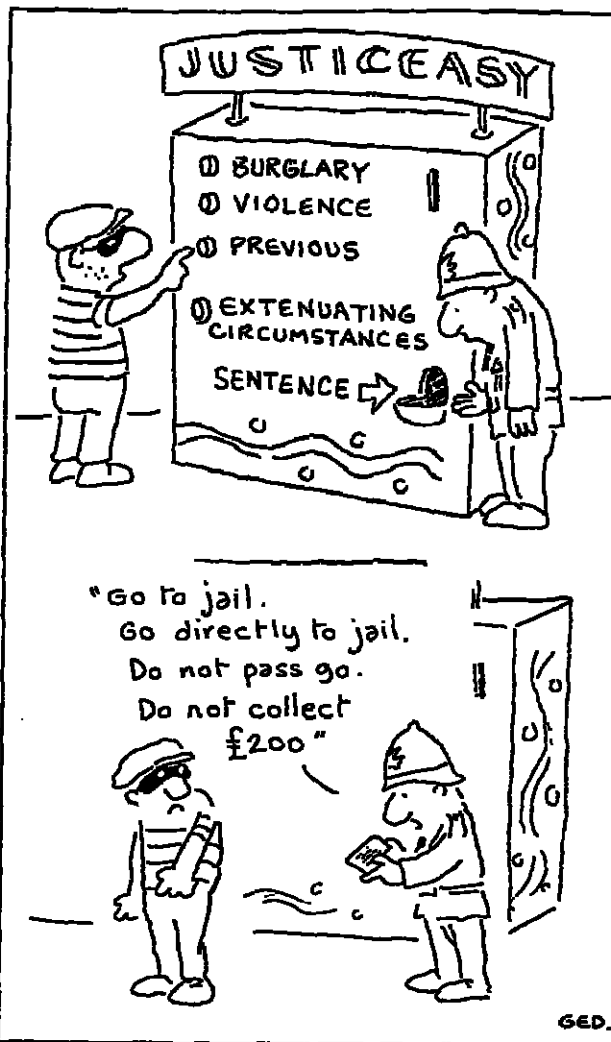
The difference in tempo between a busy magistrates' court and a crown court is striking and, in practical terms, this means that barristers in the crown court operate at little more than half the speed of solicitors.

The reason for this is that solicitor advocates have other work to do apart from advocacy and are eager to conclude cases as quickly as possible, whereas barristers are under no such pressure.

Magistrates' court clerks are also intolerant of long-winded advocates and tend to manoeuvre the list so that the quicker advocates are heard first and the slower ones sit and wait, and lose money in the process. No similar sanction exists in the crown court, where judges all too often allow proceedings to drag on at a snail's pace.

The remedy is simple. If the bulk of crown court work was conducted by solicitors, the hearings would be speeded up and justice would be done not only more quickly but also more efficiently and cheaply.

Despite the opposition of the Bar and the judiciary, the



Courts and Legal Services Act now on the statute book allows solicitors to practise in the crown court. It remains to be seen whether the Lord Chancellor will use the act to inject some efficiency into the crown court via reform and

solicitor advocates, or whether he will be hijacked by the vested interests of the Bar into allowing things to remain much as before.

The author is a solicitor with Stevens and Co, a firm in Wrexham, Chwyd.

INNS AND OUTS

Empty seat at lunch

THE prime minister's hasty removal was a blow for the Law Society. Officials at the society's headquarters had been beavering away for 18 months to persuade Margaret Thatcher to lunch with their president and the date had just been fixed — for yesterday. John Major could not keep the date but officials are optimistic about channels of communication with the new prime minister. Judy Foy, the society's parliamentary officer, spent many hours with Mr Major during the bill for the social security reforms and knows him well. The verdict at Chancery Lane is that he is a "good egg". One official said: "Even Ken Livingstone use to praise him for doing more for housing, when on Lambeth council, than ever expected from the Tories."

Divorce call

THE IRISH courts' refusal to recognise divorce creates serious injustice and often absurdity, leaving Ireland isolated as Europe's odd man out. An English solicitor, Margaret Bennett, has written to Mary Robinson, the newly elected Irish president, urging her to introduce divorce in Ireland as soon as possible.

Crown tops

THE Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) emerged well from last week's cabinet office report on the progress of women in the civil service. The CPS, the largest employer of lawyers in Britain, accounts for more than 14 per cent of the higher-grade women in the civil service. Women in the CPS make up 38 per cent of all the 1,117 employees from higher executive officer to grade five. At grade seven, for instance, they account for 43 per cent of all employees, although this falls to 14 per cent at the higher grade six. These figures compare well with the rest of the civil service, where the promotion of women is to be the subject of a campaign by the First Division Association, the union representing higher-grade government staff.

Centres in need

RESEARCH by Lynda Hisscock and Geoffrey Cole, of the Central London polytechnic, into the use of volunteer lawyers in law centres and the future for *pro bono* legal services has shown that only a tiny proportion of lawyers undertake such work (1 per cent of the 52,399 solicitors holding practising certificates and the 6,000 barristers practising in 1989). The re-

search shows that despite the small numbers, their contribution has increased the hours during which law centres can open, sometimes offering specialisms they could not otherwise provide. The researchers suggest that if there were concrete benefits, such as enhanced knowledge, improved communication skills and continuing education points available through law centre work, more lawyers might become involved. The legal profession's image could also improve if wealthy firms in private practice could be co-ordinated, perhaps by the Law Society and the Law Centres Federation, into putting something into the law centre movement.

Secret moves

AS the use of information technology in law firms increases rapidly, the risk of unauthorised people accessing files could give firms serious trouble. Any information falling into the wrong hands would be a breach of the duty of confidentiality. The National Computing Centre in Manchester, which is co-ordinating the trade department's information technology security awareness campaign, wants to ensure that smaller law firms are made aware of the risks.

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SCRIVENOR

Pity the poor fraudsman

THERE is not a substantial civil liberties lobby for those accused of committing fraud. Society strives to be scrupulously fair to murderers and rapists, protecting their rights in a variety of ways. By contrast, for the fraudster, all these safeguards have been partly or wholly swept away, and nobody has raised so much as a whisper of protest.

If the lessons of the American experience with the securities and exchange commission, which has been in existence since the Thirties, are anything to go by, nobody will raise an effective protest.

As a jurisprudential concept, the philosophy behind the creation of the legislative structure to deal with fraud is of doubtful validity. Because fraud is so difficult to investigate and prosecute, so the argument goes, it is permissible, desirable and even essential to restrict the civil rights of those accused of it.

The mere difficulty of achieving a legal end, however, should not be a justification for bending the rules. Nobody can doubt that fraud cases

are difficult to investigate and prosecute. Equally, nobody can argue with the finding of Lord Roskill — in his fraud trials committee report of 1986, which led directly to the setting-up of the Serious Fraud Office — that the authorities' impotence was a matter of serious and legitimate public concern. However, the arguments deployed to justify removing rights from somebody facing the prospect of professional ruin must be extremely cogent.

Two of the more intuitive of these arguments should be summarily dismissed. The first is that a fraudsman is intelligent and therefore needs the protection of fewer rights. Our civil rights did not evolve simply to protect the most vulnerable citizen. The philosophy has a more fundamental basis than that, namely, that a man is innocent until proved guilty.

The second is that because a fraudsman has plenty of time and leisure to plan and execute his fraud, and can obfuscate his tracks, the authorities need to be made even with him by having enhanced powers. The notion, however, that a fraudsman leaves a more difficult trail is nonsense. He leaves a paper trail, and often a money trail, a mile long. It may be complicated, but at least it is there for examination, and this must make a fraud case much more amenable to investigation than, say, a child murder with its scanty clues.

The problems of the Serious Fraud Office's victim start at the outset of a fraud investigation. Apart from the barest details, comprising the name of the company and/or persons under investigation, he is not told precisely, or even generally, what is being investigated. Yet he will be ordered,

not by a judge or magistrate, but by the person investigating him, to produce documents and answer questions.

If he fails to co-operate, he will be prosecuted for that refusal and probably jailed. In addition, the Serious Fraud Office will probably be only one of a number of official or quasi-official people investigating him.

There may have been a Department of Trade inspection, during which he will have been forced to answer questions, and his answers will be used against him in any criminal proceedings. The inspector's report will amount to a guilty verdict against him, probably depriving him of his livelihood. Even if the inspector's verdict does not go against him, the Serious Fraud Office can have a second bite at the cherry. The agony of this process of successive investigation

is unjustifiably prolonged. Things do not improve in court. The judicial function of the criminal proceedings is usurped by the Serious Fraud Office director, who has an unfettered and unchallengeable discretion to transfer any fraud case of significant seriousness and complexity to the crown court and to lodge an indictment.

The protection granted to a defendant to set aside this transfer has been interpreted by the courts as a paper tiger, giving them no discretion to stop a case in which there is the vaguest possibility of the jury reaching a guilty verdict.

It is not surprising that these new powers have terrified those who encounter them. Many will rejoice at this, but there are risks that the over-zealous exercise of the powers will produce injustices and that, as a result, they will lose the respect and forfeit the co-operation of those City folk whose support they need.

DAVID KIRK
The author is the partner in charge of the fraud and regulation unit of City law firm Stephenson Harwood.

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We have a vacancy for an Information Officer to join our busy and enthusiastic team, responsible for the firm's in-house information resources.

The Information Officer will liaise with the firm's lawyers and will report to the Manager of our Information Bank. Duties will include current awareness, enquiry work, database development and maintenance of information files.



FRESHFIELDS

London Brussels Frankfurt HongKong New York Paris Singapore Tokyo

Applicants should have relevant information qualification together with some legal knowledge. Experience of working in a commercial environment would be an advantage.

We offer a competitive salary, dependent on qualification and experience, together with a comprehensive benefits package.

Please write enclosing CV and current salary details to Alun Davies, Information Bank Manager, Freshfields, Whitefriars, 65 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1HT.

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CONSTRUCTION LAWYERS

Applications are invited from construction lawyers for these newly created posts arising out of F&E's expansion and continued success in acting for major construction companies, developers and other major players in the construction industry.

2 of these posts will be filled by Solicitors with at least two years' PQE. The other 2 posts will be attractive to experienced Legal Executives or Para-legals.

Self-motivation, drive and initiative will attract high rewards and excellent prospects.

Please reply in writing with C.V. to:-
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STAFF PARTNER
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Are you tired of commuting in overcrowded trains? Would you like to work by the sea in Brighton in a demanding post with a partnership potential? If so, we would like to hear from you and will offer a good salary, quality work and pleasant working conditions. Please write with CV to Managing Partner, Howlett Clarke Cushman 8 Ship Street Brighton BN1 1AZ

A PARTICULAR KIND OF INFORMATION OFFICER

Nabarro Nathanson is one of the largest law firms in the UK with 96 partners and over 800 staff based in London and Yorkshire.

We have a vacancy for an Information Officer to join a busy, hardworking and enthusiastic team in the Library and Information Department. Responsibilities include assisting the Head of Information & Research Services in the running of the department, enquiry and research work, using on-line databases including the firm's internal information database, and providing both current awareness and traditional library services.

We are looking for a qualified librarian, with a minimum of two years' experience in a legal or commercial environment. The successful candidate will be able to work under pressure, enjoy working as part of a team, have good organisational skills and be able to communicate with staff at all levels.

We offer a competitive salary. Benefits include BUPA, season ticket loan, staff restaurant and 20 days' holiday.

Please write with full CV to Diane Gwynne-Smith, Head of Information & Research Services.



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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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A UNIQUE CHALLENGE

Firmly established as a major force in the London finance market, our Client, one of the leading English legal practices, is now actively developing its Paris based banking and capital markets operation.

If you are an English qualified lawyer who combines thorough familiarity with the Paris financial market and a dynamic personality, this position represents a unique challenge with one of Europe's leading legal practices.

A key individual is required who, with the full support of the London office and resident French and English team, will service and develop further this aspect of the firm's practice.

The salary, benefits and partnership prospects will reflect the firm's commitment to this appointment.

For further information in complete confidence, please contact Jonathan Macrae on London 071-405 6062 (London 081-672 8340 evenings/weekends) or write to him at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 9 Brownlow Street, London WC1V 6JD.



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SHIPPING OPPORTUNITY
To £45,000

Our Client is a leading international City practice committed to dramatically increasing the profile of its Shipping Department.

The quality of work is excellent, including the full range of international shipping and commodities disputes. The youth and approachability of the partners ensures that the working environment is highly efficient yet informal.

Two young solicitors are sought, ideally up to three years qualified. Some experience in the field is a pre-requisite. Great emphasis will also be placed on personality and commitment to helping build and participate in the success of the Department.

To ensure that it attracts and retains first-class lawyers, the firm pays premium City rates and places great emphasis on career development for its fee earners en route to partnership.

For further information in complete confidence, please contact Jonathan Macrae (a qualified solicitor) on 071-405 6062 (081-672 8340 evenings/weekends) or write to him at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 9 Brownlow Street, London WC1V 6JD.



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DEVEREUX
CHAMBERS

EMPLOYMENT LAW

Devereux Chambers require additional Barristers to undertake a substantial volume of work in the fields of individual and collective employment law.

Established practitioners (Silks or Juniors of more than 5 years call) should contact JEFFREY BURKE, Q.C. in strict confidence.

Devereux Chambers,
Devereux Court,
London WC2R 3JJ.

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DAVID MEDHURST and
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Established 15 years and specialising in

- criminal law
- family law, wardship and child care
- domestic (U.K.) commercial

We invite tenancy applications from practitioners of at least 5 years call, established in any of the above areas, and in particular those interested in criminal law.

Applications, in confidence, to
David Burgess
Fourth Floor
4, Brick Court,
Temple EC4Y 9AD

LEGAL ASSISTANT
Position available early 1991

The London office of a leading multi-office American law firm requires a Legal Assistant in its International Corporate Department to handle corporate administrative work for multi-national clients.

Excellent communication and organizational skills, and the aptitude to work on your own initiative and directly with clients are prerequisites for this position.

Experience in a law firm or commercial/financial law department preferred but not essential. The position would suit a mature, bright individual with P.A., administrative or secretarial experience or a graduate wishing to gain commercial experience. Training as needed will be provided.

Salary negotiable; overtime may be required and is compensated. Private medical insurance and 4 weeks holiday.

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL
between £25-28,000

Recently qualified solicitors are needed for the growing caseload in this top City firm's commercial department. The work is broad and exciting, ranging from Yellow Book to corporate finance to EC to intellectual property and will appeal to those with good academics, a strong background and the ambition to succeed both at law and at developing a marketing role for themselves in this progressive firm.

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION
£ competitive

A new position will be created to assist with a wide range of commercial litigation, including construction, financial, insurance, and property disputes. The firm acts for various public and private companies, both domestic and international. This is an exciting opportunity for someone with the personality and enthusiasm to develop an already extensive client base. Level of qualification will be from one to four years PQE with good academics and drive.

COMPANY SECRETARY
£27,000 plus substantial benefits

c.2 yr. qualified solicitor or barrister, preferably with experience in commerce/industry required for company secretarial and general commercial role. This will need experience of intellectual property law (trademarks, etc.), preparation of commercial contracts, general company law, as well as company secretarial duties. There will be autonomy whilst having to work well within team. Excellent package.

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Fax: (071) 242 0208

Amanda Prince - Permanent
Sarah Jordan - Locum
Amanda Boyd - Paralegal
Clare Tattersall - Manager

COMMERCIAL
LAWYER
Leicester

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We would be interested in talking to young ambitious Solicitors with at least 2 years PQE who wish to pursue their Partnership aims in a well established medium size firm. We are situated in a part of the country where you can still fulfil your ambitions and achieve "quality of life". We will expect you to have excellent commercial experience and if you have a specialist subject to offer, then so much the better.

If you are thinking of a change and would like to discuss the matter further, send your CV with full details of experience and present salary level under strictly confidential cover to our company's consultant Roger Boyce, Gayton Graham Limited, 94 London Road, Leicester LE2 0QS. Please quote ref RB/500.

Please list separately any firms to whom you would not wish your Application to be forwarded.

AMERADA HESS
COMMERCIAL LEGAL
ADVISER
Oil Industry

Up to £45k + Car

London

Amerada Hess is a major independent oil and gas exploration and production company. In addition to operating three major producing fields in the North Sea, the Company is currently developing one of the largest discoveries in recent years which is scheduled to be on stream by the end of 1993.

The Company now wishes to recruit a commercial Legal Adviser with at least two years' high quality commercial experience, preferably gained within the oil industry. The Legal Department, which currently comprises five Legal Advisers, has a proactive approach and plays a major commercial role in the Company's exploration and production activities.

The successful candidate will handle a complex and varied caseload of exploration and production matters and must be able to demonstrate a strong commercial approach allied to well developed negotiating and drafting skills. The ability to communicate effectively is also essential as the role will necessitate extensive liaison with all levels of staff and management.

In return for your commitment and expertise, we can offer an excellent salary and a benefits package that includes free private medical insurance, 20 days' holiday (increasing to 25 after the first year), non-contributory pension scheme and a generous employee share scheme.

Please send your full CV to Dilly Hallett, Amerada Hess Limited,
2 Stephen Street, London W1P 1PL.

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ECAM 7AS. Fax: 071-489 9494.

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PRACTICE REQUIRES

Assistant Solicitor for criminal and some civil litigation. The post is ideal for an enthusiastic and able advocate who wishes to expand his/her career in these areas.
Please apply to box no 2241

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY
SOLICITOR

North London law firm requires a solicitor for commercial property work. The post is ideal for a solicitor with a minimum of 3 years' experience in commercial property work. Salary negotiable. Law Practice - 071-242 1281 (24hrs).

CORPORATE SOLICITOR

North London law firm requires a solicitor for corporate work. The post is ideal for a solicitor with a minimum of 3 years' experience in corporate work. Salary negotiable. Law Practice - 071-242 1281 (24hrs).

EMPLOYMENT SOLICITOR

North London law firm requires a solicitor for employment work. The post is ideal for a solicitor with a minimum of 3 years' experience in employment work. Salary negotiable. Law Practice - 071-242 1281 (24hrs).

FAMILY LAWYER

North London law firm requires a solicitor for family law work. The post is ideal for a solicitor with a minimum of 3 years' experience in family law work. Salary negotiable. Law Practice - 071-242 1281 (24hrs).

City/West End

LITIGATION PARTNER

A senior solicitor of proven ability is sought to supplement the broadly based litigation department of this recognised commercial practice in Central London. The appointee is likely to be a salaried partner already with experience of handling a heavy caseload and with some client following. There is a wide range of commercial and contractual disputes. Early partnership is envisaged.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY PARTNER

A high profile and established practice committed to a programme of continuing expansion seeks a solicitor, already at partner level and with a portfolio of clients, for its well placed City office. The existing team handles a broad spectrum of property matters including sales and purchases of high value units, investment and development work and the property aspects of company/commercial transactions. The enthusiasm to contribute to the further development of this department is essential. This is an important new position leading to equity partnership.

PRIVATE CLIENT

c. £35,000

A well-known progressive City firm has instructed us to introduce a solicitor with around two years' PQE for its established private client department. The range of work has an emphasis on trusts, will drafting, estate planning and consideration of tax implications.

LIT: FLUENT SPANISH & EXCELLENT

An exciting opportunity in the commercial litigation department of this prominent City practice has arisen for a young recently admitted litigation solicitor who combines a good academic record with some sound experience. Fluency in Spanish is essential. He/she will join this expanding department handling a range of commercial litigation including insurance, reinsurance and shipping.

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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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Recognition for
the individual.
In Corporate
Law.

Dealing with multi-national corporations and investment banks gives young lawyers considerable opportunity to use their initiative and ability to the full. The highly individual nature of each transaction demands an equally individual response from legal advisers. Where better to practise this approach than at a firm where it has become a philosophy - Linklaters & Paines.

We encourage you to take an imaginative approach. Add to this the diversity of our clients' activities and you will see why a career in our Corporate Department is so rewarding for the individual.

We have a range of work which represents a genuine challenge: one day you could be working as part of a large cross-departmental team on a high-profile takeover; the next you could have sole responsibility for the day to day requirements of a client.

Whatever the transaction, recognition comes to those who thrive on individual responsibility.

If you would like to know more about the opportunities we have for ambitious corporate lawyers, contact Janet Lewis on 071-606 7080, or write to her at Barrington House, 59-67 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7JA.

L
&P

LINKLATERS & PAINES

NEEDHAM
& JAMESPROPERTY PARTNER
LONDON

We are a substantial commercial practice, based in London and the Midlands, which enjoys a reputation for being innovative and progressive. Our legal services are of the highest order, enabling us to compete successfully with large City firms and to face the challenges of the nineties with confidence.

Owing to the death of a senior property partner, we seek to appoint a successor to lead our Commercial Property Department in London which undertakes a wide spectrum of complex commercial property work. The duties will include the supervision and development of the Department in London and will involve close liaison with clients and the Property Departments in our Midlands offices.

Candidates must be solicitors of partnership status who can demonstrate sound relevant experience combined with professional ability and commercial acumen.

The remuneration offered for this appointment will be substantial. If you wish to apply, or discuss your suitability, please contact John Hamilton, quoting JH/335 at:

John Hamilton Associates, Friary Court, 13-21 High Street, Guildford, Surrey GU1 3DG.
Tel: (0483) 574814 Evenings/Weekends: (0730) 892136

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COMMERCIAL WORK OF QUALITY

Bournemouth Partnership Prospects
QUALITY OF LIFE should be important to able 2+ year admitted solicitors with the ability to take on committed commercial work of quality for corporate and private clients and grow into equity partnership in due course.

Excellent offices and car parking space in beautiful surroundings with connected CITY OFFICE within easy reach, will give you the chance of avoiding London commuting.

Comprehensive details of the new appointment may be obtained by contacting Sally Wood who is retained by the client as a Consultant for this appointment. Please quote reference number 182.

Your details will not be released to any third party without express permission.

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CHAMBERS OF
MR RODGER BELL QC
1 CROWN OFFICE ROW TEMPLE
BRIGHTON ANNEXE.

Applications are invited for the position of CLERK to the above ANNEXE which is in the process of expanding and moving to larger premises.

Remuneration according to age and experience.

Applications will be treated in the strictest confidence and should be addressed to:

The Senior Clerk, Mr Alan G Smith
1 Crown Office Row, Temple
LONDON EC4Y 7HH

EXPERIENCED SOLICITOR sought by small busy practice in London/County. Must have 10 years experience in all aspects of legal work. Good salary and benefits. Please send CV to: The Senior Partner, 25 Chancery Street, London, W1M 8PS.

2 HARE COURT

Are pleased to announce that David Hunt QC Jonathan Harvie Beverly Lenz will be joining Chambers shortly. As part of our policy of expansion we welcome confidential applications from able commercial practitioners over seven years call. Application should be made by mid January 1991.

Colin Rose Moore QC
2 Hare Court
Temple
LONDON EC4Y 7HH
Telephone: 071-583-1770

LEGAL
SUPERVISOR

The Legal Department of a leading retailing group based in Middlesbrough seeks a Legal Executive to supervise its Debt Recovery Department. Solid grounding in court procedures and management skills are essential. Attractive salary and benefits.

Contact Law Personnel
071 242 1281 (24 hrs)

OPPORTUNITY at Partner level for a "niche" practitioner with a Commercial Client base to join a smaller and progressive Firm in New Square. Particular area of expertise less important than a following and a plan for practice development. We can offer expertise and back-up across a wide range of legal work and a commitment to offer a first class service within a satisfying environment. Please write to BOX No. 2221, c/o Times Newspapers, P.O. Box 484, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD.

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

North Cornwall District Council
Treasurer's Department

Located in new offices in the attractive small market town of Wadebridge, on the beautiful Camel Estuary in Mid-Cornwall, the Treasurer's Department is looking to fill the following post:

SENIOR BENEFITS
OFFICER
Scale 6/SO1: £12,747 - £15,102
(Post T38)

We are looking for someone fully conversant with current Community Charge and Housing Benefits legislation, with an aptitude for working with computer systems and some experience in supervising staff.

The successful applicant will be expected to become involved in every aspect of the day to day operation of an effective benefits service.

An attractive relocation package is available in appropriate circumstances.

An application form, full job description and relocation details can be obtained from the Treasurer's Secretary, Mrs. J. Sanders, Higher Trussard Road, Wadebridge, Cornwall. Telephone Wadebridge (0208) 812295 Ext 2222.

Closing date: Tuesday 18th December 1990.

Priority House
Bedeale

D.M. WESTWELL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SCF

Previous applicants need not re-apply.

North Cornwall
District Council

PCfC

THE POLYTECHNICS & COLLEGES FUNDING COUNCIL

DIRECTOR OF
INFORMATION SERVICES

SALARY UP TO £32,500
(plus performance pay of £5,500)

The PCFC is responsible for distributing more than a £1 billion of public money to the polytechnics and colleges in its sector.

As Director of Information Services you would be responsible to the Secretary of the Council for the effective collection, management and dissemination of the information which the Council needs to discharge its functions.

You will be directly responsible for the information systems, statistics, and external relations units, including relations with the press and media. But you will also be involved, as a senior member of the management, in formulating and implementing Council policies and practices.

You must have professional or relevant qualifications, several years' experience as a user of information systems, and at least two years' experience in managing the production and publication of information at a senior level.

Finally, you must be aware of the strategic influences affecting Higher Education.

The Council is presently located in central London but will relocate to Bristol in June 1991.

For further particulars, and an application form, please write to Marilyn Marshall at:

The Polytechnics and Colleges Funding Council
Metropolis House
22 Farcy Street
LONDON W1P 9FF

or ring her on 071 637 1132

The closing date for applications is Friday 21 December.

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

Play a Central Role
in a Major
Investment

GENERAL MANAGER

Milton Keynes
Salary c£25,000 p.a.



THE POLYTECHNIC, MILTON KEYNES
LEICESTER POLYTECHNIC

As a result of an exciting development of a new greenfield Centre of Higher Education based in the city of Milton Keynes, we require a General Manager to co-ordinate the development and operation of the institution.

By working closely with Directors of the Polytechnic you will provide a comprehensive pro-active service geared to the success of the institution and will be responsible for the implementation and operation of the infrastructure of the Centre.

You must be eager to bring your own creative ideas in addition to a good educational background, with at least five years managerial experience at a senior level, and an understanding of the higher education system.

We are looking for a motivated team member with the resourcefulness and organisational skills to contribute to a wide range of projects for the development of the institution.

Informal enquiries to Tim Wilson, Assistant Director (Operations) on (0533) 577019.

Further written details about the post are available from the Personnel Department, Leicester Polytechnic, PO Box 143, Leicester LE1 9BH. Tel. (0533) 577363.

Your completed cv should also be returned to the above address by 12 noon, 7th December 1990.

The Open Polytechnic

The Open Polytechnic has been established by 20 polytechnics and major colleges of higher education. Our aim is to promote a wider range of learning opportunities and more effective teaching and learning, through the provision of innovative, high quality media-based materials.

DIRECTOR OF
PROGRAMMES
c.£36.5K

This key position, reporting directly to our newly appointed Chief Executive, carries full responsibility for developing and implementing policy on the production and use of flexible learning materials, including the appointment and management of Academic Co-ordinators to lead the materials production teams.

Essential attributes include a successful track record in the production and publication of high quality distance learning materials, well developed management skills and an enthusiasm for actively seeking out new educational and business development opportunities.

For further details please write to: Chief Executive, The Open Polytechnic, The Marlborough Building, 383 Holloway Road, London N7 0RN.

Closing date for applications is 20th December 1990.

LEGAL

County Secretary & Solicitor

£41,310-£45,438

We require a successor to Nicol Smith who will be retiring on 31st March, 1991.

As County Secretary and Solicitor, you will, in this Chief Officer post, be responsible to the Chief Executive for the provision of legal and administrative services and the management of the County Council system. The Department has recently been restructured, with a Solicitor heading by an Assistant County Secretary and a Legal Division headed by an Assistant County Solicitor.

With wide experience of Local Government law and administration, you must have the enthusiasm to manage the work of the Department and motivate staff. The ability to contribute effectively to the corporate activities of the County Council and the initiatives which have already been set up to meet the challenges of the nineties, is essential.

Full details and an application form are available from the County Personnel Office, County Hall, Trowbridge BA14 8UN. Tel: (0228) 753641, ext. 2051. Ref. 90/312. Closing date: 28th December, 1990. Interviews to be held 15th/16th January, 1991.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

Wiltshire
COUNTY COUNCIL

The concept of voluntary work sprang from charitable and lessened beginnings but recent years have seen a considerable growth in the numbers and variety of people willing to do unpaid work. Many volunteers are aware that there are advantages all round, for themselves as well as for the people or organisation they support.

In the changeable employment market, voluntary experience makes a good impression on potential employers. "Helping" can also involve helping oneself to confidence through volunteering a few hours a week or a few months full-time.

"The trouble with me is that I still do not know exactly what I want to end up doing," says Paul McGilchrist, who works in media resources at a London comprehensive school. Louise Robertson and Paul were employed as publicity officers on short-term contracts, and took on voluntary work to try out new directions. Paul is now a volunteer tutor in adult education. Louise's hours with a hospital radio were enjoyable and, she believes, added to her credibility. She went on to join a production team for a television programme.

Advertisements for voluntary help with fund-raising, publicity, clerical work, research and practical jobs frequently include sentiments such as "cheerfulness and flexibility more important than skills" and "support and training provided".

There are outdoor projects, residential schemes and telephone helplines. The intangible assets gained from working with people, such as listening, noticing, and responding to what needs to be done help to make volunteers convincing at job interviews.

Voluntary work continues to have a high public profile. Last April, the Prince's Trust and the Commission on Citizenship organised a conference, "Young

Help yourself, helping others

Voluntary work can help younger people decide which career to choose, says

Bernadine Coverley

Volunteers in the Community, and tomorrow's International Volunteer Day will pay tribute to volunteers by publicising local activities.

If the value to society is obvious, the rights and protection of unpaid workers have to be considered as well. The Volunteer Centre has produced a charter to encourage organisations to cover practical details such as arrangements for insurance and health and safety.

Community Services Volunteers (CSV) is one of the longest-running organisations providing full-time experience in the caring professions. This national scheme, founded in 1962, places 2,000 volunteers a year from its local offices around the country.

As new volunteers appear, CSV expands. The policy is not to refuse any offer of help from anyone aged between 16 and 35, whether ex-offenders, graduates or school-leavers wondering what to do. The only preconditions are a willingness to leave home for a placement lasting from four months to a year, in a different and often contrasting area, and to live on £18.50 per week plus housing and meals.

Lesley O'Brien, aged 17, who is working in a women's refuge, was too young to join the Metropolitan police. At the CSV interview she



One pace forward: Howard Flynn and Stefanie Hodges are fighting crime as community volunteers, helping police in south London

asked about placements that would be an asset in her choice of future employment.

"I have gone along with women when they needed help from the police. It was very revealing and I understand much more about what the police do. I am a better listener too." She will move on to spend the last months of her year as a volunteer working with homeless people.

After failing one A-level, Shabir Aziz, from Sheffield, thought he had no chance of going to college, so he became a volunteer to give himself time to think. He was

placed at a Birmingham community centre, where he works with elderly people and on an innovative bilingual project with Punjabi children. "The best thing is getting feedback from people. I did not expect to enjoy it so much either," she says. He is now applying, with CSV advice, to polytechnics to study social administration.

Not every volunteer has such clear ideas about careers. Hazel Batkin, aged 18, lives near Northampton. She says: "There is nothing but shoe factories and shops and I had loads of jobs, the

longest for two months." She wanted to get away and the local careers office put her in touch with CSV. In London Hazel helps a disabled woman to live independently.

Although CSV is mainly concerned with caring for people, it does have a "green" project for 25 people in Wales, Cymru Conservation Challenge, an imaginative, one-year programme of working with people and the environment in Wales and in Portugal.

Those who prefer outdoor volunteering can join the British

Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV). This organisation, supported by the Countryside Commission, gets more than 60,000 volunteers a year working on conservation in town and country. The variety is endless, including scrub-cutting, coppicing and tree-planting in woodland, restoring ponds, controlling water level and maintaining aquatic plants and dependent creatures in wetlands, and repairing drystone walls, fencing and hedge-laying in fields.

The majority of volunteers get involved out of interest but for

some it is an invaluable opportunity. Those who are willing to volunteer full-time can become voluntary field officers and will receive comprehensive training.

Jane Bevan, from BTCV's head office, says: "Many long-term volunteers are graduates who want to get experience before going into a career in conservation or environmental science. Some centres are vying for volunteers. North Yorkshire may seem more obviously attractive than an inner city, but making the city green can be just as satisfying."

A volunteer field officer is treated as a member of staff and training is allocated according to time of service, covering such practical skills as the use of computers and time management. Ability to get on with people is tested in "leading volunteers" workshops. Field officers must be able to run a friendly, co-operative group of diverse volunteers, from lawyers to miners.

BTCV can help with accommodation and expenses, but the rules governing state benefits need to be checked with the social security and employment departments. Some voluntary organisations provide similar programmes on an employment training basis. Involvement in any voluntary activity puts people in touch with a network of contacts and gives a feel for the grassroots work, a good basis for informed career decisions.

Further information: Volunteer Centre UK, 29 Lower Kings Road, Berkhamsstead, Herts; Natural Break, conservation working holidays programme, local BTCV; Volunteer Field Officer Information, British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, 36 St Mary's Street, Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 0U; Community Service Volunteers, 237 Pentonville Road, London N1 9NL. The Voluntary Agencies Directory is available at libraries or from the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), 26 Bedford Square, London WC1 3HU.

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

A senior management role within a changing environment

SERVICES DIRECTOR

Manchester - Package from £38,000

We are the UK's largest Polytechnic with over 18,000 students and 3,000 staff. To complete the Directorate, we are now seeking a Services Director to assume responsibility for the important support services of this established institution of higher education.

Reporting to the Polytechnic's Director, you will have overall responsibility for the co-ordination and development of the full range of services including student services, educational services, computing, libraries, catering and house services and buildings and estates.

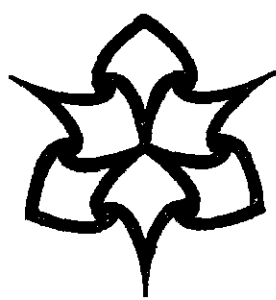
You will be involved in initiating and establishing resource development programmes and for

integrating these within the overall strategy of the Polytechnic.

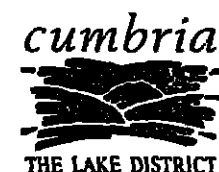
Comprehensive management, communications and leadership abilities are essential together with a committed and enthusiastic approach.

We offer an attractive benefits package and the opportunity to make a significant contribution within a changing and developing environment.

If you feel you can make a positive contribution then please write to Sir Kenneth Green, Director, Manchester Polytechnic, All Saints, Manchester M15 6BH enclosing a comprehensive curriculum vitae.



MANCHESTER
POLYTECHNIC



DEPUTY DIRECTOR (HEAD OF MARKETING)

£25,000 including car allowance

This challenging position, based in Windermere in the Lake District, offers the opportunity to advance in the field of tourism, promoting one of the most popular areas of the UK.

Your main responsibility will be to the Board's Director for the planning and control of the Board's operations, deputising for the Director as required. This post also carries specific responsibility for the development and implementation of a detailed marketing, information and press programme.

Other major responsibilities will include providing marketing advice to the Board's members, establishing good media relations, and developing the tourist information network.

Educated to degree level, you will have wide marketing and promotional experience, preferably in the tourism industry and relevant professional qualifications. An understanding of languages (French or German) would be desirable.

Further details and an application form (to be returned by Friday 28 December 1990) please contact: Cumbria Tourist Board, Ashleigh, Holly Road, Windermere, Cumbria LA23 2AQ. Tel. Windermere (09662) 4444 Fax: (09662) 4041



HEALTH CARE

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT

Private Hospital Hong Kong

The Matilda & War Memorial Hospital is a 100-bed private institution situated in a commanding position on The Peak, Hong Kong Island.

Providing a range of services including maternity and surgical, the hospital employs around 80 nursing staff and is widely utilised by the medical profession in Hong Kong. A new ward block and extensive refurbishment has recently been completed to very high standards.

Additional to the General Surgical and Medical Ward Rooms, there is an excellent Maternity Unit, a small Paediatric Ward and a new Endoscopy Unit.

To assume overall control of the hospital, we now seek an experienced medical practitioner. Reporting to the Board of Governors and leading a small management team comprising the Matron and Hospital Administrator, the new Medical Superintendent will work to ensure the continuing success of the hospital in a competitive private-medicine environment in Hong Kong. Success will reflect the Superintendent's ability to combine a detailed knowledge of medical and hospital procedures with real skills in management and motivation.

The successful candidate probably aged forty or above should be a registered medical practitioner with administrative experience as well as well developed all-round clinical skills. A personality suited to promotion of the image and facilities of the hospital to both the medical and local community will carry significant advantage. The post may well be attractive to a retired or soon-to-retire officer in the armed services.

An attractive salary and gratuity is offered, together with a package of expatriate benefits including free accommodation, six week's leave, annual economy air fares and other allowances. A three-year initial contract is envisaged. The maximum rate of personal taxation in Hong Kong is currently 16%.

Please write as soon as possible with full personal and career information, quoting Ref: HK1822/K to:

Matilda & War Memorial Hospital
41 Mount Kellett Road,

GENERAL MANAGER

£22,309 - £25,059 pa

St Oswald's Hospice aims to be an equal opportunities employer.

A Company Limited by Guarantee and a Registered Charity.

At St Oswald's Hospice, we pride ourselves on our total commitment to providing the highest possible standard of palliative care to patients and their families. This is obviously a bold statement, providing an exciting challenge for a dedicated professional Manager - to ensure that this commitment is equally shared by the newly-formed management team structure that you will lead.

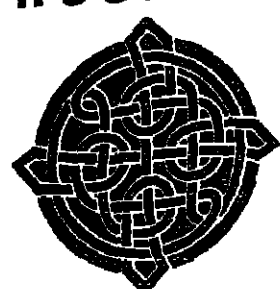
With responsibility for the day to day management of all aspects of the Hospice and with a budget of £1.2million, you will need to demonstrate considerable senior management experience within a multi-disciplinary environment to ensure that St Oswald's continues to be a well funded and smooth-run operation.

Of graduate calibre, it is equally important that you possess the necessary well developed interpersonal and negotiating skills to influence and enhance the future development of the Hospice. Experience of a charitable environment would be advantageous.

If you think you have the right qualities to encourage and foster the principles of St Oswald's then apply in writing to the Chairman of the Council.

Informal enquiries, please telephone Mr Geoffrey Doria on (091) 285 0053. Job description and information pack from St Oswald's Hospice, Regent Avenue, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 1EE. Closing date 14.12.90.

ST OSWALD'S
HOSPICE



School of Management

Applications are invited from tutors for Residential Schools to be held from February to May 1991.

The School of Management of the Open University is now the largest provider of management education in the United Kingdom. It currently offers a range of courses at three levels, leading to the award of a Professional Certificate in Management, Professional Diploma, or Masters Degree in Business Administration (MBA).

Residential Schools are an essential component of many of the courses. The vast majority of the schools are held over the weekend period at sites throughout Great Britain and Northern Ireland. They offer the opportunity to practice intensively group interaction and dynamics, and role plays, in order to reinforce the written materials which the students will have been studying in their own homes.

Courses with residential schools cover the following general areas of management: selection skill, managing people, marketing, the competitive environment, managing change and design.

We are looking for residential tutors from industry, education or the public sector, with an appropriate level of education and experience in the management areas covered by the courses.

To obtain the application package for teaching posts at Residential Schools in the Professional Certificate in Management or Professional Diploma programmes, please send your name and address on a postcard to: Residential Schools Tutors Office, SOMIS, Open University, PO Box 82, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AU.

The closing date for applications is 11th January. Equal Opportunity is University Policy

The Open

Vagador has quality to defy top weight in Fontwell feature

By MANDARIN

VAGADOR can overcome top weight in the Coores Handicap Hurdle at Plumpton this afternoon. Throughout his career he has been regularly pitched against the best, and has generally acquitted himself well without quite establishing a permanent place among the highest rank of hurdlers.

He enjoyed his greatest triumph when landing the Waterford Crystal Supreme Novices' Hurdle at the 1988 Cheltenham festival, his fifth consecutive win that season. Success has been harder to come by since then and his only subsequent victory was a defeat of Beech Road, the former champion hurdler, over this course and distance last term. That was on his seasonal reappearance which also suggests he is capable of defying the lack of a previous outing.

He has, however, put up some creditable efforts in defeat, including a fifth, beaten just over three lengths, to Beech Road in the 1989 Champion Hurdle. Form of that quality gives him a clear chance, particularly on a course which suits him well.

The in-form Hard As Iron may provide the greatest danger. He was the comfortable winner of a conditional jockeys' contest at Stratford last week, for which he incurred no penalty, but this is a step up in class and he also prefers a left-handed course. Fontwell's figure-of-eight configuration may not be entirely to his liking.

Old Virginia had Wishon some five lengths behind when winning at Windsor last month but will be pressed to improve the form on 12th worst terms.

Haitham, a 12,000 guinea purchase out of Tom Jones's Newmarket stable, was a winner on the Flat this season and can make a winning debut over hurdles in the Blackheath Novices' Hurdle.

The Artful Rascal, a fair second to Fortunes Wood at Leicester last month when in need of the run, is fancied to get the better of Ashfield Boy in the Greenwicks Novices' Hurdle, while his trainer Josh Gifford can complete a double with course and distance winner Vincento in the Wally Coores Handicap Hurdle.

However, for the nap I go to

Newcastle and Farnworth in The Valley Of Fear Novices' Chase. He began the season with a win from the useful Pat's Jester in a good race at Kelso, and was not disgraced when a half-length second to Major Rann, who received 6lb, over the same course next time.

George Moore, his trainer, has made a good start to the season and Farnworth has an excellent opportunity here to regain the winning thread.

I am also keen on the prospects of Steeple Lane in The Final Solution Handicap Hurdle. She ended last jumps season with a game win from Gold Service at Haydock and, fit from the Flat, may still have scope for improvement over hurdles.

Revare has a clear-cut chance of getting off the mark after two creditable seconds in The Hound Of The Baskervilles Novices' Hurdle while Tranquil Waters should take The Sign Of Four Claiming Hurdle.

At Leicester, Decent Man appeals as the best bet on the programme in division one of the Christmas Tree Chase.



Vagador heads the weights for the Coores Handicap Hurdle at Fontwell Park

Ambitious plans for Morley Street after decisive win

MORLEY Street, the winner of the Bracken Cup Chase at Belmont Park, New York, in October, enjoyed the perfect start over fences in Britain at Worcester yesterday.

The Toby Balding-trained six-year-old never put a foot wrong and outdistanced his eight rivals in the Fred Rumell Memorial Novices' Chase.

Jimmy Frost, reaching a career total of 300 including point-to-point wins, was thrilled with Morley Street's performance. "He's well in front of anything I've been privileged to ride," Frost said. "Everything went to plan. I'm sure he'll stay any distance and when he goes up a couple of years you'll really see him jump."

Balding said: "I don't think fences are going to be a problem for him. He runs next at Kempton on Boxing Day. He'll be entered in both novice chases but I think he'll go for the three-mile race."

The ambitious objective for Morley Street, however, is the Scragram Challenge, comprising the Royal Ascot Chase at Ascot, Cheltenham's Sun Alliance Chase and the Mumm Club Chase at Liverpool's Grand National meeting.

To win all three brings a £50,000 bonus on top of the three handsome individual prizes.

At Kelso, Magomed Tokov became the first Soviet jockey to score in Britain when riding Macho Man to victory in the Maxwell Motion Classic Handicap Hurdle. His triumph helped the Soviet Union to win

the three-cornered international challenge with England second and Scotland third.

Tokov, aged 31, always looked confident of success on the Jojo O'Neill-trained five-year-old and owner Geoffrey Wilson was delighted with Tokov's performance. "The jockey rode my horse particularly well," he said.

Tarzan Takeover, the 11-4 on favourite, proved a decisive winner of the three-race Coores Handicap Chase. Chris Grant partnered the eight-year-old in the second leg of the international event after being drawn to ride him rather than Tassar for his retaining trainer Arthur Stephenson.

Richards holds strong hand

CLEVER Folly, the bestie favourite for the Mackeson Gold Cup at Cheltenham last month, is one of three Gordon Richards-trained five-day acceptors for the A Fudge Gold Cup Handicap Chase at the same course on Saturday.

Richards could also be represented by Full Strength and Highfirth, who collects a 6lb penalty for winning at Wetherby last Saturday.

FONTWELL PARK

Selections

By MANDARIN

12.45 Snitterfield.
1.15 Haitham.
1.45 Vagador.

2.15 Vincento.
2.45 Tryumphant Lad.
3.15 The Artful Rascal.

Michael Seely's selection: 1.45 VAGADOR (nap).

Going: good to firm (chase course); good (hurdles)

SIS 12.45 COOMES CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING CHASE (22,222: 2m 2f 110yds) (9 runners)

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8 25-150P PALMERSTON 15 (J. J. Squire) J. White 12-10-12 D Skyrms 77
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11 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J. J. Squire) J. White 12-10-12 D Skyrms 77

1.45 COOMES HANDICAP HURDLE (26,264: 2m 2f) (11 runners)

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3 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.

Australian captain has kind words for England



by **and Graham Gooch**

caution

it, either, but it is now a very important part of the cricket calendar and we have to play it that way."

11

Border offers counsel of caution

[illegible][illegible]

Season ticket sale for Lord's stand

[illegible]

1

RACKETS

in Austria by touring on the Glendinich tour in 1987.

will be the twelfth year it has been held.

ins to defend

Collins, of Yateley, will be the second defence of his international light-weight boxing title at the Arena on January 23. Moment has been named.

hoped to match Collins

ty Till, of Northolt.

ts decision

Espinosa, of the Phil-

Anderson, 15-3, 15-12, 15-B;
 bt W Matby, 15-10, 15-12,
 d round W Boone bt C

RACKETS
U.S. British Amateur championship: T. Crockett to S. Davies, 5-1, 4-5, 17-15; G. Gearing to C. D. 15-12, 15-12; M. Hume-Hughes to D. 15-11, 15-11, 15-6; C. Worsley to B. 15-10, 15-12, 15-12; P. Pinner to J. A. 15-4, 15-2, 15-2; P. Mason to C. 15-12, 15-12, 15-2; Second round: D. Worsley to B. 15-12, 15-12, 15-2.

REAL TENNIS

Division 4, Leads 4. Play-off:
Seda 1.
CHES: English Schools Tro-

[illegible]

